

GILIAN JACOT GUILLARMOD

Interviewed by: Daniel F. Whitman

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Q: Okay, here we are. This is Dan Whitman at the University of Pretoria. This is the 5th of March, 2009, and we're going to talk to Gill Jacot Guillarmod. And what we should do first, Gill, because there's a transcriber involved here, could you spell your name?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sure. It's G-I-L-L; that's actually an abbreviation, my official name is G-I-L-I-A-N, and my surname is long, J-A-C-O-T, new word, G-U-I-L-L-A-R-M-O-D.

Q: Okay. Thanks, Gill.

Now, when you were working at the U.S. embassy at Pretoria, you had spent several decades working on cultural exchanges and other types of things. I'd like to ask you first, where were you born?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I was born in Cape Town in 1942, and I joined the embassy there in 1964. And I was there for five years until I left to come to Pretoria to be married.

Q: Now, you say embassy; in those days it-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was USIS (United States Information Service).

Q: -the embassy used to go back and forth, I believe, from Pretoria to Cape Town, depending on whether Parliament was in session.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes but we had an American consulate general and I was with the little- tiny little USIS office.

Q: Tiny little USIS office within the consulate.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Okay. Now, going back, sorry, you said '64?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sixty-four to '69.

Q: When we think of when this started really changing in the '90s, this was 30 years before. So tell me what you can remember of the things that you did during those five years and what was it like in Cape Town at that time, with the- Well, the previous system, as it was.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, it was horrible. I mean, it was better, I have to say when I joined there I really wasn't aware of quite how horrible it was. My being with the embassy affected by outlook on life and I had the great privilege of being- I was a Gill of all trades because we had a librarian and then there was Gill, and I did the press placement and I did the film library. I used to take movies into the townships in the big old station wagon and screen films.

Q: Sixteen millimeter?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sixteen millimeter.

Q: The old threading the machine and all that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And the sprockets would break and have to stick- And the most popular, there were two movies that were really popular, "The Golden Age of Comedy" and the other one was "Years of Lightening, Day of Drums," but I always took along our propaganda as well in the hope that they would- the audience would enjoy that too.

Q: Now, when you mention townships, I know there were restrictions.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. I went usually to Guguletu.

Q: Guguletu. Were there restrictions on the people classified as whites in going into the townships?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes but I was in a dip car and I never, ever had a problem.

Q: Okay. Were you usually accompanied by an American diplomat when you went? Sometimes yes, sometimes no?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Usually no.

Q: Usually no, okay. Now, was this a given already in 1964 that 16 millimeter films- What were the tools of the trade back then? Films, press releases?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The library. Oh, and a lot of press, a great deal press. We used to get all those, you might remember from IPS (Inter Press Service) thousands of photographs, all these photographs and multiple copies of them, many of them with no captions on the photo.

Q: From the photo archives from Washington.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And then everything about, or desalinization and the Hoover Dam and just all sorts of things to tell America's story to the world.

Q: And what were you able to do with these materials?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: With the press I used to- When I worked for a new BPAO (Branch Public Affairs Officer), David Michael Wilson, David- you know David- and David decided I was young and blonde and mini skirted in those days that just sending the things in the mail would just- the press stuff would all just land up in some news editor's in drop box and not get used. I used to take the things up to- go up to the "Burger" and the "Argus" and the "Cape Times" and then get to meet people.

Q: The local papers.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And it- it definitely did improve placement. I'm not saying that was because I was young and blonde; I think it was the personal, you know, actually handing it over to somebody.

Q: And so you worked with David on this, with his encouragement you went and you made frequent- you actually-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I used to go once or twice a week up to the three main newspapers.

Q: Three; "Argus," "Burger," and then another one.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: "Times."

Q: The "Times," okay. So this was purely a Cape Town activity?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: Although Cape Town had its importance as the parliament-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Of course, yes.

Q: and at that time- it was parliament, basically, yes. Now, parliament was in session, I think half a year?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: From January to June; end of January to June.

Q: And what used to happen from June to January then? You were still there, you were-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Would things slow down a bit?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I can't even think that it was quiet, actually, because I think we always were doing things with education, with University of Cape Town; NUCES, the student body was- we were very active and we tried to work with them quite a lot. And with the- in those days there was that big high building behind us, the South African Information Service was there and the BPAOs would make a point of mixing and establishing relationships with the officials from South African Information Service.

Q: So even back then it was- was it a tempered thing of trying to be in touch and in contact with all strata of society?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, we made a concert- We liked to lay claim to the fact that we provided the first opportunity for a little black theatrical group to perform, and they did a play and I can't now remember the name of it, but they brought into our funny little library that we had and we had a play with a mixed- they were from Guguletu. There was a man there by the name of Ben [Office.]

Q: Whose idea was this?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The BPAOs usually.

Q: The BPAO. Just David-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was David, it was Clark Thornton, Tom Gunning; those were the three.

Q: Oh, so you had a team of three?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, no, they were successive ones.

Q: I see.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I was the secretary to the BPAO so I did, you know, I would do the filing and the secretarial work.

Q: The Gill of all trades.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Now, you said-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Used to get the Wireless File in those days. I used to say oh God, I'm going to get embalmed; when I die they'll bury me and wrap this around me.

Q: It was paper at that time that came; it was sort of a telex.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Lots of trees; lots of trees. Yes, it was a telex, it was a telex. We sent messages by telex and I had a-

Q: We almost have to explain to young readers what a telex was because I'm not sure they have them anymore.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh yes, certainly.

Q: It was like a telegram but it was a little bit more-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It's like in the old movies, if you look at that.

Q: Tick, tick, tick, tick.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Tick, tick, yes.

Q: The ticker machine, yes. It would come overnight; you would actually find it in paper form in the morning.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Clip it up and- no photocopiers at that time.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. Well, there was a photocopier but you did what they called to burn a copy, and you put this piece of paper with- you put another piece of sort of shiny kind of paper over it, and bear in mind I'm technically challenged, so I can't-

Q: As I am, for the record.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And you would feed the piece of paper with the other copy into this machine, it would go over rollers and then come out on this paper, shiny paper, which eventually then, didn't last for a year, even, I don't think. It would just fade. But you had the copy when you wanted it.

Q: I've seen those; it was not so different from the mimeograph machine.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And we used to do that also. If we did a newsletter then you would type that up.

Q: And the type was not so good, it smudged something like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And it made holes in the paper.

Q: I guess we could note for future generations that this is the origin of the word "burn," because they burn a CD, right.

Now, at the beginning Gill, you were saying that it was horrible. In what way and when did you find out about this?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, it was just that- it was just because black people were denied everything.

Q: You said at the beginning this was something you were not aware of. I understand that the system separated-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, I think I was just blind.

Q: -and didn't make things visible.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: In your work with the U.S. consulate how did this become apparent to you?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think just for the first time the people that I encountered, that I would serve in the library when I was there or who would come in for an appointment, come in to ask questions also, would be black people. Before that all the black people I had met had all had menial jobs. They worked in the streets or in people's homes and I then got to realize wow, you know.

Q: Yes. What were the possibilities in the '60s for a black person, I suppose we should talk about colored, Indian and the others as well.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Don't forget there weren't a hell of a lot of black Africans in Cape Town in those days. There was Guguletu-

Q: They were in the Cape but not in the city?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: So but you did get a trickle of people in the central business district.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: What type of person, what type of black person did you get?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Educators and church people.

Q: So they knew in the beginning that they were welcome in the Center?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Yes, yes.

When had the library been created? In the '40s, in the '50s, in the '60s? Any idea? It was there when you arrived.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, I can't. It was there when I arrived. It was in Monte Carlo building. The consulate general was in Broadway building and Monte Carlo building was adjoining; there was a big door that separated us. But I used to- and I'd go to work, I would come in through the Monte Carlo entrance.

Q: Okay. Not to be obsessive about the race thing but I believe there were four categories.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: White, Asian, Coloured, and African.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: What was your sense of the relative prospects of people? Did they all- did all types come in the library at that time?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: And as you got to know them gradually did you have a sense of what their future possibilities were, relative, one to the other?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: You know, I can remember David describing to me how he saw South Africa and he saw it as- there would be- the White people were at the front of the river and then there were the Colored people and then there were the Indian people and then the great big Black crocodile at the back, behind- In the river, if it was a river where you were going.

Q: Through the eyes of the outsiders seeing this for the first time.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because people were pushed away so that you didn't see the-

Q: But you took the effort or you were asked to, to go to some of the townships, Guguletu and others. Does anything stand out from that five year period; any particular program? You mentioned the theater group that you gave a venue; did you do any international visitors or Fulbrighters?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. You know, I didn't have anything to do with exchange programs then.

Q: They all came through Pretoria, I suppose.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They came through Pretoria, yes. And I didn't really understand. I knew that they were students and I've kept my records of people that I had and I knew that there were names of people that I knew came from Cape Town in the '60s who went on the Fulbright program, for instance.

Q: That's fine.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: During the time that I was there, and I joined from '64, and then I recognized some of the names of people who would come in to the office; I'd see here a name, Richard Reeve, a famous person, yes, who went and did a Masters in literature at Columbia in 1965; people like that.

Q: Fantastic. Where was Dennis Brutus from; was he from the Cape? Johannesburg perhaps.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think Johannesburg; I think Johannesburg, yes.

Q: And then you met a person named Jacot.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. But I met him the same year that I joined the embassy, 1964 was my year.

Q: Because that's the name you now bear we have to spend a moment finding out what it was that took you from Cape Town to Pretoria.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A wedding ring lured me to the land of the Voortrekker Monument. Indicating nothing else would have. When people used to come into the library and say we hear you're leaving, where are you go, I'd cry and say Pretoria, because Pretoria had such a reputation for conservatism and it deserved its reputation I found, when I got there.

Q: So the wedding ring and I think the man who offered it were something of great worth, taking you to a place- you did not want to come to Pretoria.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No.

Q: Did you know that before coming that you did not really want to?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I came to Pretoria for the first time when he had come to Pretoria and then invited me to visit him, which I did, and that was my first exposure. But I just wanted, you know, I wanted to be wed. Let's not go all into the wrinkles or anything.

Q: It's up to you, actually; you're going to get to edit all of this.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Okay.

Q: Okay so love and marriage triumphed over your sense of place, I guess. Do you remember the day you left Cape Town?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, I remember the little farewell party that they had for me and photographs and things. I had a lot of friend; I was very happy and I used to- I enjoyed- I had a couple of wonderful experiences when I was there. Bobby Kennedy came to South Africa.

Q: UCT (University of Cape Town).

JACOT GUILLARMOD: and to UCT. And we worked for him and I can remember going into the consul general's office and seeing his- Bobby's aides sitting with their feet up on the desks- I was appalled to see that.

Q: Now, you must know this is too historic a moment for us to pass over lightly. You must help us remember the famous visit where he spoke at UCT.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He spoke, yes, and we all went up and I can remember my teeny little car, I had Jacot's little gray Vauxhall and we couldn't get up- We followed the cavalcade and then it was just, there were so many- what seemed like thousands of people and probably was close to a thousand, outside in the grounds and we just parked in the middle of the road on the UTC campus and went up into the main hall.

Q: So you heard the speech?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes, yes, I was there, yes.

Q: Now tell, before we get to the speech, which is a historic moment, what was your involvement with the Robert Kennedy visit?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: We did some typing for them. It was the UTC visit and then they also went and visited the Simonsberg hostel, a hostel at Stellenbosch University.

Q: Why did Robert Kennedy come? He was attorney general at that time?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: What was it, was it his personal interest? What brought him this great distance?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh gosh, I don't know.

Q: Was it just part of being the Kennedy clan?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think so. And the U.S. saying what they thought about academic freedom and that, because he delivered the academic freedom speech.

Q: Yes. And I know it's, well 30 years, 35 years ago, what do you remember, not the quotes, but what do you remember of the gist of that speech? The text is readily available I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Just encouraging; I don't know that I really remember too much. I think I was so over overwhelmed by the whole occasion, you know, and just being there, part of it.

Q: Can you describe what it was that was overwhelming? Was it him, was it the group?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was also him. Don't forget we were in the presence of the man who everybody thought would be the next president of the United States of America and that was an assumed experience.

Q: This was '67?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sixty-six, I think it was.

Q: Sixty-six. And he lived until '68.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And then we met- we got to meet him afterwards. There was a function at Hedding Hall and he and Mrs. Kennedy were there and he had all his aides and they came along and we got to shake his hand and he said give her a pin, give her a pin, and I still have the U-boat from JFK and that was- I've got that little pin.

Q: Oh my, oh my. How many people were at that reception? That was a by invitation?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh hundreds.

Q: But it was hundreds, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, but we were all there as the workers.

Q: Now, in the hall, at that time it was a white campus, I think. Is that correct?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. But I think there were-

Q: The audience was mixed?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Predominantly, predominantly white.

Q: Now, okay, and then after his visit, I suppose you must have been busy providing photos and text to the local newspapers perhaps?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes we did.

Q: Was it a big story the next day?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh huge, huge.

Q: I mean, stupid question. Yes. And did it-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Banner headlines. And then I think we also- I'm trying to think what it was, there were headlines in the paper because he was in Waterkloof; he came to Pretoria after Cape Town, I think, and there were pictures of him walking around Waterkloof shaking hands with domestic workers and gardeners and that, you know.

Q: So he made a point to-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: So he made a point of acknowledging the black citizens of South Africa, yes.

Q: Did you have any sense of the regime at all stressed about this contact? Did they mind, did they care? Was there any sense of being observed or any sense of an attempt to control the venues?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, no, that doesn't mean to say that it didn't happen but that I can't remember specifically.

Q: Right. It was done subtly perhaps, at times.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well maybe not even so subtly because subtlety wasn't part of their vocabulary.

Q: Okay. Well, let's get you to Pretoria. Nineteen-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sixty-nine.

Q: And did you immediately find yourself at the U.S. embassy?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. Because the only job they offered me was in the budget and fiscal section and not being able to control my own checkbook I decided no, and I went and worked in commerce for two years. And in those days they didn't used to advertise; all appointments were made by sort of word of mouth.

Q: This was the commerce section of the embassy or the ministry of commerce?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, just the embassy itself.

Q: Oh yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The embassy, the personnel section and I got a- I was really getting tired; it was a 20 mile trip each day, you know, there and back to the job that I had and they phoned and asked would I come back. And I came back and for two years I was the FSN (Foreign Service National) assistant to the admin consular and I had a very- didn't have nearly enough to do and I was complaining about that and after awhile they gave me- I would stand in when people were on vacation and it was very valuable. I did a stint in the general services and I got to appreciate what those good folk do. You know, we tend to complain about them but they had their schedule for the day and then the ambassador's wife phones because the loo's broken and they have to drop everything. So I did- I worked-

Q: Well we complain when things go wrong but we never notice when things go right.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: When it goes right, no. I worked in personnel; it was very helpful, I worked in the general services travel section for awhile and I learned a lot, which was to stand me in very good stead when I eventually moved to USIS. I worked in budget and fiscal, all of them, and then, I remember the late Frank Strovis, he was there in those days working with the PAO (public affairs officer), was Perry L. Peterson.

Q: Perry L.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, whom I'm still in touch with. And Frank was his IO, and Frank was dating Marcy McKee, who was the American secretary to the admin counselor and March and I were great friends, and Frank knew that I had had- I'd worked for USIS for five years and my predecessor in the exchange program, a wonderful woman, Mrs. Robbey, who'd been there for a million years, they discovered that she was 70; horror of horrors, you're not allowed to work a day over, I think, 65, and she- and so they wanted to replace her and I got the job because I had the previous-

Q: There you were right there.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: -yes. And Obe Pitswana, Obe the driver and I joined USIS on the First of February 19- First of January, sorry, 1973.

Q: Seventy-three. So it was four years-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Since I'd left-

Q: Purgatory. Before finding yourself-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And from day one it was just wonderful.

Q: We're going to, of course, get to that. I'm going to break the rule of chronology and ask- I should have asked if there's anything you want to point out about your family, your upbringing, your education back at Cape Town.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't think so. You know, I don't have a- I've got no tertiary qualification or anything. I grew up- I matriculated, I did a secretarial course afterwards at the Technicon and then I worked for a leading firm of jewelers where I did the secretarial work and checked in the jewelry repairs, etc., for two years, then I went to work for an attorney, and I enjoyed that very much. I was there for a year but then he decided to go into commerce and joined a company and that was when I then was unemployed, which was rather nice, Cape Town in February and not having to work and going to the beach, etc. I was only 20, don't forget, and then- No, no, no; I was 21. And then my girlfriend was dating a young political officer and they knew that there was a job break going in USIS, and she was a librarian but she didn't have secretarial skills and I had the secretarial skills which they said was more important than the library, I'd be able to learn about the library, so that's how I got- Ernie Colton was the BPAO who interviewed and employed me.

Q: Okay. Okay, let's fast forward to coming in USIS in 1979.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Seventy-three.

Q: Now, you said it was wonderful from day one.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes it was. Just the exchange program.

Q: Can you remember the first day or the first weeks or the first month?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I remember my first mistake. I can remember- I had great respect for Mr. Peterson; he was very, very nice. There wasn't a cultural attaché¹/₂ at this stage; Jerry Prillaman was yet to come so there was just- there was me and there was the American secretary and there was the RPMAO, budget person. And there was Ghandi Chang, who was Mimi's brother-in-law and he was in the film library; he was also a very able photographer. And my mistake was the grant; the IV grantee was the late Stan Kweyama, who was with the Citrus Exchange. I got a phone call from Mr. Peterson one Saturday morning. I was going to the racing; there was a phone call to say oh, Gill, there's a cable in from Washington and we haven't said when Stan's arriving. And I hadn't, I hadn't sent an ETA cable. I said, oh Mr. Peterson, I'm so sorry; I don't want to get you into trouble. And I came rushing in and sent off the cable so that was very-

Q: Rushing in?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Into the office on a Saturday.

Q: At odd hours on a Saturday.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I often rushed in on weekends.

Q: Again, this was before the days of easy phone calls.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And that was also long before the days of computers.

Q: Yes, of course.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was an electric typewriter there.

Q: Very state-of-the-art, yes. Well, that doesn't sound like a mortal sin.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I was quite conscientious.

Q: Maybe venal but not mortal.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Quite conscientious in those days.

Q: Okay, so you got Kweyama off on time, he went to the U.S. In those days it was 30- or 40-day trips, I think, international.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, they were six weeks. And it didn't matter if they took their spouses along.

Q: Ah.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They were allowed to take their spouses. And in fact in many ways they were encouraged to take their spouses, particularly for people who had- who were disadvantaged in that they didn't have big budgets and that to go abroad was a very expensive exercise and you might be able to find the money for one person, and why should one person in the family have this wonderful experience and not be able to share it with his life partner.

Q: Later discouraged in the '80s and '90s.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Late '80s discouraged.

Q: Discouraged because the Washington bureaucracy found that having a spouse distracted the visitor, I think.

I see you looking at a list-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I'm looking at- these are some of the IVs I sent in that year.

Q: Do any names leap off the page?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh yes, Sheena Duncan, national president of the Black Sash; Wilkie (inaudible), who's still a huge name promoting mathematics. He was the first- he was really the black expert in the field of mathematics, and you know from your experience here there's a shortage of qualified black- black and white mathematicians that got much worse.

Q: And scientists.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sam Motsuenyane, who was the head of NAFCOG (National African Federal Chamber of Commerce) and he was a lovely man; he brings back lots of happy memories for me because he used to come into the embassy, well, into USIS, and he didn't have an office or anything and if he- I would make phone calls for him for appointments and with a white- the people would hear a white voice answer, make the call and I'd phone and say please, can I speak to Mr. X, Y Zed and they'd put me through and then I'd hand over and say here's- He ultimately- he got an honorary doctorate; he is Dr. Motsuenyane so I sort of acted as a, that is, his-

Q: You were the intermediary.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He was a wonderful, wonderful man, yes.

Q: Okay. Now, at what point did you meet these folks? Did you- In some cases were these people that you brought to the attention of your American colleagues or did they-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Occasionally but you know only after I'd been there for awhile. For the first time, if you read that document that I gave you, I give great credit to my colleagues in the embassy and that for spotting "comers," to use an American expression, that they really- And so many people who you see- who are running South Africa today were the occupied- key positions in our country were identified when they were still ready to be junior staff.

Q: What types of people were spotting these? Were they South Africans and Americans alike?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But it was more, it was more the Americans because in the State Department there weren't too many FSNs in the political section and that.

Q: So the political section people were out and seeing things?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They were seeing things.

Q: And they-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And they identified-

Q: Maybe they had fewer reporting requirements than they do today, maybe?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know but they certainly- And don't forget it was very different then. It was so easy to identify the good guys and the bad guys.

Q: How was it easy?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because any- All the government people were associated, for the most part, you know, you've got the exceptions and then you knew about them but for the most part the government people were associated and I became very anti-government; I became very intolerant, I think, of anybody who I thought didn't agree with me.

Q: Yes. Now, but the embassy was sending some government visitors of course.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh yes, yes, because they didn't send only the people that they- who liked you; you also sent people you didn't like. I mean, before my time they sent Jimmy Krueger, that dreadful minister of justice who was the one who said that because death left him cold, and I think he went in about 1968.

Q: So the American agenda was to try to reach every- to not be exclusive, to take people from the various sectors and if they misunderstood us or if we didn't like them, all the more reason for them to have some- if they were leaders-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Exposure.

Q: -To have some exposure to the American system-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They would send- don't forget, they sent a lot of media, they sent media folk. In the early days, if I go back and I look at my records of before I was involved with exchange program, the majority of people who went were white but gradually as the years went by the numbers-

Q: And I gather from what you just said that your preference, your greater pleasure, was in sending those who did not have the established credentials of being in the government but who were thinking about the country's future. Now, the famous F. W. de Klerk visit-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, 1976.

Q: Seventy-six.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He was a member of parliament for Vereeniging in those days when he went.

Q: Okay. Now, and in the famous quote he said, eight, seven or eight years later he said because of the trip to the U.S., something like I understand race relations; he said something like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: Do you remember, in '76, were you at all involved in processing this?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, he was from Johannesburg so I- I did the paperwork so it would have my letter- my signature at the bottom of the letter which would have gone sending off his air ticket and his travel allowance and telling him what to expect. But I didn't meet him personally; I really only- I would meet- I obviously met the people who came through the Pretoria office and I used to go to the airport almost without fail, I saw off almost every person of color who went on- In those days it was Pan Am flights twice a week and they went via Rio de Janeiro and beyond.

Q: Now, why did you feel it was necessary or helpful to accompany people of color?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because so many of the people that we sent had never flown, had never been out of the country and also to make quite sure that they didn't encounter any difficulties with checking in.

Q: What types of difficulties might they have encountered at the airport? Documentation, exit visas and all that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Perhaps; perhaps, yes. And also you wanted them to know that we really wished them well and that- it was nice.

Q: Do you remember what you felt when you signed the de Klerk grant or invitation letter? Did any-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, he was no different than anybody else in that state.

Q: He was just part of any other person in the government.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Who knew that he would be the person to release Nelson Mandela?

Q: Did you, actually just on de Klerk on a moment, I mean, you must have met him in following decades, I guess.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes but only on about two occasions and I don't even think that they were thanks to-

Q: To the U.S. program.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No.

Q: It was just because you were-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It happened at other things.

Q: - or public events where he was present.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Things like that, yes.

Q: Yes, okay. Pan Am; imagine.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Pan Am 202.

Q: Pan Am 202. Which is what, Johannesburg-Cape Town-Rio, like that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. But you didn't get off the plane in Cape Town.

Q: So you would just stay in the plane for many centuries and end up somehow- And then from Rio-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And I don't think you boarded either. I think those people came from Cape Town to Johannesburg and then it just stopped to refuel, something.

Q: I mean, that's the closest geographic point in the Western Hemisphere to land in, I suppose, just about.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think there was some- They didn't all go. Don't forget there would be a couple of years when you'd have a particular route and then there were others when they went round through West Africa and across to Washington.

Q: Right. There was the Dakar-New York Pan Am flight.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And you had to fly American carrier, regardless. It didn't matter if you could get a British Airways at half the price.

Q: That's still the case. I know because here I am in Pretoria and, same thing.

So, do you have any- What would be your guess as to how many people per year benefited from the International Visitors Program in the '70s, '80s in South Africa? I mean, you had to sign the letter. Would it be 15 or 20?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I would do the- No, many more than that; about 35.

Q: Thirty-five.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And there were partials, too. It was before, really before the volvis [Voluntary Visitors] program grew and what- in those days we called it FSV, facilitated assistance.

Q: Okay. We'll, just explain the voluntary visitors program very briefly, which is a program which-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: With somebody who is going to the United States but they would have the same characteristics of an IV so that if they weren't going you might nominate them and they would be there and you would set up appointments for them with counterparts in their field. And occasionally- Now they also give them- even when I was leaving they were giving funding but initially they would set up just the appointments and there was no money entailed.

Q: Facilitated assistance.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Facilitated assistance.

Q: And the programs can be as short as one week, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: So 35 visitors per year; did you notice the gradual shift in demographics from '79 to the '80s and the '90s?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: For which program?

Q: International Visitors and for Facilitated Assistance.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was an unwritten rule that it had to be two-thirds black.

Q: Ah. Whose rule? The U.S.?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know; I don't know.

Q: Ah, interesting.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But I know I- It was just- That was when they had the IV selection meeting; they- that's what they did. The list of finalists that came out-

Q: When we say- black in the American sense, which would include colored and Asian?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh very definitely yes, yes. I think that was during the Carter Administration that we started using a policy of two-thirds black although this was an unwritten law.

Q: Did you find, in the '70s, you started in '73, did you sense a directive coming from Washington or from your American colleagues in country here, what was the objective of U.S. policy from your- What do you guess? A gradual change or status quo or we're here to make commercial, to benefit commercially; do you think it was a mixture? Was there a consistent policy?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think to show South Africans that they were- there was a better way to do things, to show that democracy worked.

Q: Okay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And then I think also, depending on who the officer was, some of them were more, you know, were more proactive; somebody like Jerry Prillaman.

Q: Prillaman, yes, who was what, CAO (cultural affairs officer)?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He was CAO, yes, from 1973 to about early '75. I've got something from him; I can look that up.

Q: Yes. Later he was in-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He went to Yaoundé¹/₂ also.

Q: He went to Yaoundé¹/₂, that's right. So Jerry stands out-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And then he was in Paris.

Q: As one of the more active-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I actually saw him- I had lunch with him in Paris a little while ago.

Q: I was in touch with him by email a few weeks ago.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Did you? About these things? Oh good. Because remember I had suggested to you that you contact both him and Brooks Specter.

Q: Yes, but serendipitously I received a note from him- Maybe it did come from you but I received a note from him related to something else, I think. Anyway, I did have the honor of working with him.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because his memory- and he had kept lots of notes.

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It would be very valuable for this exercise.

Q: Excellent. I'll try to do that. He lives in Paris I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, just outside of Paris. I've got his email address.

Q: Yes, yes, please. I have it somewhere.

Okay, so things began to change and should be talk about Operation Crossroads Africa? At what point did it begin? I don't want to skip-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: That was, I think, 1974.

Q: Seventy-four, okay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think about '74.

Q: Okay. Tell me, and tell the listener, the role of OCA, Operation Crossroads Africa, in the-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: OCA was the only racial program that we presented.

Q: What do you mean by that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It did not- it was not possible for a white person to go on an OCA program but it all- people of all other colors could go.

Q: We have to mention Bart Russeve, our late friend from New Orleans, who administered these programs, who came here every year recruiting-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He started- and at 73, I'm sorry; he sent for Franklin Sonn, who ended up being- who was the-

Q: Franklin Sonn, later ambassador.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: To the United States, he was in the first-

Q: The first real ambassador, I think you could say.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Was he an IV?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, he was OCA.

Q: OCA?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. In 1973. There were four people who went that year.

Q: Well gee whiz. Did you know Franklin Sonn?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No.

Q: No. But you-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He came from Cape Town but Frank Sassman knew him.

Q: Yes, yes, yes. Frank Sassman knew him.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Wow.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He was the principle of the Peninsula Technicon in those days.

Q: The Pen- yes, Peninsula Technicon. And then the first ambassador under the Mandela-under the new regime, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think so.

Q: I think so, I think so. Ninety-four.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Ninety-four, yes.

Q: Well, there's evidence of-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: An effective list. But we- If you and I had 30 hours we could go through here and come up with hundreds of evidence of the victims.

Q: I have 30 hours; maybe you don't.

Now, we have to mention, as part of this, that Bart, an African American traveling to South Africa during the apartheid era, he once showed me his visa; it said honorary white.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Ridiculous.

Q: That's what it said. Tell me about what you remember of Bart Rousseve and his visits here.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I just worshipped the ground he walked on. After he'd been here for a few years, it was just wonderful; he always used to let me have a party for him when he was visiting and I always got 100 percent acceptance for that because everybody would just come for Bart.

Q: He came once a year, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He came once a year, yes. A shame, you know, even then, I realize now when, you know, after he died, that he had, what's it called? There's an illness call necropsy.

Q: Narcolepsy.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Narcolepsy.

Q: That's exactly-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he clearly had that because I used to sit him on interviews- after awhile I began- The first several years I didn't, wasn't part of the interviewing process and then I got to be asked and it was lovely and I did that; I did it with- I ended up doing it with Fulbright, I did it with OCA and I used to do the, for IVs I used to do the program suggestions, he met with the grantees.

Q: And the narcolepsy?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And Bart would nod off in interviews and I would, you know, take over.

Q: So it would be you and Bart plus the candidate?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And always-

Q: An officer.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Another, an officer.

Q: An officer, whether Jerry Prillaman or somebody like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. And sometimes an alumnus.

Q: Again, let's get this away from you and the subject is you but we should mention that Bart died in a car accident when he was driving at night on the Taconic Freeway in New York State, and we think he fell asleep; he was driving to Boston.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Because he'd been to a farewell party that they were having for him before he went off to- he was going to join the cloth.

Q: Yes, 1994, 1994, the year that Mandela became president, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he was- when he left OCA he went to work for the IIE (Institute of International Education).

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he worked in the South African-

Q: International Institute of Education, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. Based in New York.

Q: Yes. And also for African American Institute at some point; AFGRAD (The African Graduate Fellowship Program) something.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: AFGRAD, yes.

Q: So he kept coming kept coming here; he changed his position in the States but he kept coming here and working with you as he changed from one organization to the next.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And he was very kind because he used to say to me, oh Gill, what can I do to repay you? And I said, in 1988 I said, there's something you can do. I had a whole lot of South Africans studying in New York at that stage and he let me cook them a meal in his apartment on 121st Street in Harlem, and I walked from 42nd Street to 121st Street and then I went and did shopping, cooking and they all came along. It was a most marvelous evening.

Q: So you cooked a meal for South African visitors in Bart's home.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A chicken dinner in Bart's home, yes. And many of those, the Fulbrighters and the OCAs and the AFGRADs, then all became friends also; people met who hadn't met other than that. So Bart was such a catalyst in bringing people together.

Q: Yes. They also met other Africans from other countries in the continent.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: And I was eyewitness to a number of times when the South Africans were greeted with suspicion from the other participants.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I experienced it myself.

Q. Gill, tell us what you remember of the difficulty in integrating black South African participants into African programs in the U.S.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh no, I didn't mean it that way; I meant that when I went on my FSN orientation program in 1979 I was on the same program as Deva and Ron Hendrickse and it was for all cultural assistants across Africa. They were a group of about 30 and I was the only white and the rest made it very difficult for Deva and Ron because the rest of the group were very unhappy that I was there.

Q: Why?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because I was white.

Q: It may seem obvious but-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, because I was white. I mean, the guy from Kano, Nigeria, big, big man, said if my government had known you were going to be here I wouldn't have been allowed to come. And the lady from Liberia, with her Diane von Furstenberg luggage, said to me, tell me- Ron and I had been in Miami for three days beforehand and I'd had my hair permed and curly and I'd been in the sun so I was quite brown, probably browner than Ron, and she asked me was I classified colored, and I said I was very sorry to tell her but I was classified white. And so they really resented me at first but by the end of the trip they were quite good about saying, oh- the same Kano man patted me on my head and told me I was a good woman. And Gilbert from Togo said he was going to take me home to be his South African souvenir.

Q: Well, let's give Gill Jacot Guillarmod some credit for making people feel at ease. This is something that you've always done supremely well.

Deva, Ron and you, I had no idea you went to-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The same-

Q: - you had known of them and you had worked with Ron?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, had worked with them both, no: closely.

Q: So this was not a new relationship?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, no, no.

Q: Well, let me just add that with IVs, which I did deal with at that time, black South African IVs were met with extreme suspicion.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because their people thought that they were sellouts.

Q: Exactly.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, that was true.

Q: Or spies or what have you and they had to prove at a very early stage that they were not in order for there even to be the possibility- It was quite tense, quite tense.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I know that, and I'll tell you this, let me tell you another little issue. There was a time during the Carter era that the South African government introduced the homeland situation, Bophuthatswana and KwaZulu, etc. And then they would enforce, nine times out of ten, they would insist that anybody, if we invited them- I have to- No. Let me back track also.

I have to tell you that, and I found that quite interesting when I listened to my counterparts in other countries; the South African government never dictated to us who we had to invite.

Q: Very important.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Unlike in many of the other countries where you had to go through the ministry of this, that and the other, and there was quite a bit of nepotism in that, this is what I heard from my own colleagues over there, the South African government never did but on the other hand they had control by denying an invitee a passport, so that was the way. Then, when the homeland came into being they insisted that people travel on homeland passports and many- several blacks refused to travel on these dummy passports while there were others and let me, if I can quote you one, Sej Motau, who coincidentally is now standing as a DA (Democratic Alliance) candidate in Pretoria-I can't believe it. He went on OCA and he also went and did a Masters in journalism at Berkeley. He was a senior journalist on the "Pretoria News" and he occupied big positions with DeBeers in Canada and London; everything. He was the- But when we invited him for the first time on OCA he was told that he could only have homelands, Bophuthatswana passport.

Q: Which was not recognized anywhere outside South Africa.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Nowhere else in the world, no, no.

Q: So he could not have arrived- He could not have been admitted into the U.S.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But we gave- we would give special, a special document that the consulate general would then stamp so that the person could get in.

Q: A travel permit.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A travel permit, yes. Sej said I know what I am. I'm not going to be deprived of a trip- of realizing a dream by somebody giving me a fake document. I will accept it to go and he went.

Q: So others did refuse.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A few did. Some said no, that they wouldn't travel on it.

Q: It's their loss, perhaps.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I would think that it was. I did find, also, that many people who'd been very vehement and said oh, they'd never go to the land of the imperialists, that once they actually had an invitation in their hand they were able to come to terms with the decision.

Q: The body language does not go on the tape. Implying, what? A certain openness or opportunism or-?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But I think, but whatever it is, who would blame them? No, no, no.

Q: A marvelous offer.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: So it's covering- What's it doing to your principles but so what? No, so what? Because don't forget we send people over, the languages for the mutual exchange of ideas and that, so they were going to influence Americans and Americans were going to influence them.

Q: You mention a phrase which to me is a very potent and emotional one, mutual understanding, which is a phrase used in the Fulbright Hayes Act of 1948-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And which was always part of the letter of invitation.

Q: Always part. And injecting myself just for a second, I think that this mutual understanding aspect has taken a secondary place in our exchanges. Share with us your feeling of the importance of mutual. I mean, it's a leading question because I'm in favor of it and now that we're sending text messages out and all forms of electronic communication for which there's no real face to face feedback, do you have any reflections on this notion of mutual understanding? Because it's important to me I'm asking you.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I used to think also that America was so vast a place, with every kind of opportunity there and every conviction, that you could send people, and I mentioned earlier we didn't only send those who liked us; we also sent those who didn't, people like Adrian FIVak and Jimmy Krueger but if a person had a really narrow mind there was enough going on in America that was disappointing that they would find it and if they wanted to they could come back saying oh, you see, it's exactly the same over there. But most times, I think, that people's persuasions were changed. I really do think. If not immediately but I think that it impacted on people, that they were able to see that there was a different way to do this.

Q: I guess it was never codified or a particular policy but I know the U.S. Government tried to show everything and not to conceal anything while visitors were in the U.S., hoping for the best. And as you say some people had their prejudices and their stereotypes confirmed, others found some surprises. Would you recommend this to any large country, to have unfettered access? Again, I ask a leading question.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Yes, absolutely.

Q: Okay now, you were going to tell me about the homelands act. Oh you did; no, you did. That is the government insisting on-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The people having- on people traveling-

Q: -the homelands coming on these passports that were not recognized.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And it would say citizenship un- You know, it also would say citizenship undetermined.

Q: A passport?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A passport.

Q: I don't get it. How can you have a passport without a citizenship?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, it would be stated but undetermined.

Q: Amazing. Okay, so the U.S. embassy found a way of issuing a travel document that allowed people with these useless passports nevertheless to be recognized by the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service).

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But then of course they could only go to the United States, so that they couldn't-

Q: No multiple entry.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And they couldn't go as- when there wasn't an American carrier people could go by London. There were times when there wasn't a Pan Am, you could go somewhere- They couldn't, they really had to- But what they could do, occasionally, was to just go and stay in-

Q: Transit.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In transit, in transit.

Q: So they could go through London but they could not go to London.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, they couldn't go to London. And of course people- For a while we worked with the British embassy if somebody was going- Jerry was very good about this; if he saw- read an article in the paper that somebody was going to the UK or-

Q: Jerry Vogel?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Jerry Prillaman.

Q: Jerry Prillaman.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: We would write to them and I continued doing that; if we read about anybody I'd write and say, you know, from time to time we have exchange programs and would you be prepared to give me your bio data.

Q: Yes, the UK was cooperative?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. We'd occasionally- They would pay for them to go to a round trip to London and we'd pay from London to the United States.

Q: Really? Really?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Not often but a few times.

Q: Sometimes.

Now, we've talked about OCA, we've talked about International Visitors, writ large; we haven't talked about Fulbright yet.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. Let's stick onto short-term ones so let's do the CIP.

Q: The Cleveland International Program.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, for youth leaders and social workers.

Q: Yes. Again, the late CIP. But, your recollections of CIP.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, just phenomenal, phenomenal. And people would go for four months. They were all social workers initially; they'd go for four months, they lived with American host families and they worked under the guidance of a mentor. And it was phenomenal and I can remember-

Q: This is like internship sort of.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, it was an intern but a practical hands on experience. And I can remember in 1975 we had a CIP- I'm trying to think, Dr., the name of the man who- Oh, who can I forget? Who was CIP for many, many years. Ollendorff? I think that was his name.

Q: Yes. Yes, yes, yes. Henry Ollendorff.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Henry Ollendorff. And Henry came out to South Africa and we had a workshop and in- at the Boulevard Hotel, and I had to get special ministerial permission for black people to stay at the Boulevard- It wasn't an international hotel but we still had to get special permission for black people to stay in the hotel and that's where we had- they were accommodated there and we had-

Q: In Pretoria.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: -the workshop in Pretoria, yes.

Q: Was your own race, did it make it easier for you to get such permission?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, it was the embassy.

Q: Ah, ah. Okay, okay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: That opened many doors if I started a conversation with, hello, I'm Gill Jacot Guillarmod from the American embassy.

Q: Yes. Now, so you mentioned this visit of Henry Ollendorff.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: What was the occasion?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: To, I think, because CIP had been in existence for quite awhile and they wanted to have- It could have been the tenth anniversary or something that we had it.

Q: Now, you said phenomenal, wonderful; four month internships, host families.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And I think why it was so amazing was because in those days, particularly I'm talking about the black social worker, they weren't just social workers; they were every single- they occupied every single position in the townships that they could. They were fundraisers; they were guidance counselors; they were parents in- what's that expression?

Q: Mentors. In loco parentis.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In loco parentis. Yes. They really- And their doors were open 24 hours a day to people and so that was wonderful, to be able to give people like that an opportunity to go and- Because they were trained at Fort Hare; that's where the only sort of black school of social work was.

Q: Yes. Now, on selection, did they send out people the way OCA did or did you select them? The people-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, we would select them.

Q: Fort Hare, Eastern Cape, right?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Fort Hare, on the Eastern Cape.

Q: Easter Cape.

Okay. Again, I don't know if it's all that important to remember the individual names but generically what's your sense of how this transformed people, to go off from a township, be in a city in the U.S. for months and to come back.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I was able to- that's one of the reasons that the job was so meaningful to me, because I was able to witness people return with a greater sense of their own self worth. And I can remember after an OCA- a woman who went on the OCA program, we had- there was a lady by the name of Dorothy, she was the counsel, chairperson of the African- the American Council of Negro Women, I think. Dorothy something. And we had, in our funny little- this is when the embassy was still downtown, not in its great big luxury building now, we had a multipurpose room, which had all sorts of wonderful things there. But we had a group of women come together, talking, and Miss Dorothy was the keynote address and she was, to be honest she was no great shakes but she was the most marvelous catalyst at bringing all these women together.

Q: This was an American who had traveled-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: An African American woman who came, she was our guest-

Q: As a speaker.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Because don't forget, I didn't do only the outgoing exchanges, I did all the incoming exchanges as well, in those days, which is wonderful because I could get the two to mesh together. You'd meet somebody and then send them on exchange program then you could program with them again when they came back; it worked so well. But I can remember that particular day, and I can't think what the topic was that she spoke about and- but I can remember an African woman getting up and a white woman had spoken in a rather patronizing way and the black woman got up and said, you know, don't you tell me that. And she just spoke- and I was so proud of her, she was just really-

Q: This was, you think, partly because of her trip to the U.S.?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I'm pretty sure. I mean, it happened just two months afterwards. I don't think she would have had the, well, not the courage but-

Q: The gumption.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, gumption, probably a good word, you know, to have done. So yes, we certainly did see people come back-

Q: So what you remember of the value of CIP was it increased people's self confidence.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, but she, don't forget the lady that I'm talking about- Joyce was a grantee of OCA; I'm saying that all our exchange programs did that; they enabled people to get a sense of their own self worth.

Q: Very important. So that's something you could say generically for all the exchanges.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Absolutely, absolutely, yes.

Q: Before we go to Fulbrights, other comments, other recollections of the short-term visits? There were Humphreys-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, don't forget, you know, CIP closed and then we had another- we had the Indiana- the South African internship program but that was- I don't know what period you're covering.

Q: The whole thing.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: What, up until I left?

Q: I remember when CIP was put to rest; it would have been in '93 or '94 and bureaucrats- because I was there at that time- bureaucrats- the comment was we've supported them all of this years, let's give someone else a chance. That was the argument; I was in the room. A truly idiotic decision.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And how. And how, because they did wonderful work. I happened to be at a CIP conference in Cleveland and I was flying from Cleveland to San Francisco when P.W. Botha made his Cross the Rubicon speech and the South African exchange rate, the rand plummeted, never to return.

Q: Please explain this speech, "Cross the Rubicon."

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Everybody was expecting him to make- to say some nice enlightened remarks and he didn't, he just said nobody's going to dictate to us; we'll do whatever we want to do.

Q: And you were in the U.S. at that time.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I was in the U.S., yes. With all the CIP grantees who happened to be there. It was '85 and I was on the senior FSN program that I went- I was based in Washington for three months.

Q: So did it feel as if on a micro level things were advancing very nicely partly because of your programs and on the macro level it sounds as if you were frustrated with the slow-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Very, yes, very frustrated. Because strange things were happening. Because, I mean, during that time also they changed the laws about the group areas act, the passports. And I can remember seeing Sheena Duncan, whom I mentioned earlier, who was the head of the Black Sash, I can remember seeing her being interviewed on CNN and her eyes just filled with tears. She said well if it is true it's the most marvelous news. And it was true.

Q: Sorry; if what was true?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: If it was true that people were no longer going to have to- the group areas-

Q: Abide by the group areas act.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: Okay.

Some of the readers of this are not familiar with Black Sash. Could you explain Black Sash?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was an organization founded by a bunch of women at the time when the South African government was about to remove the colored, the so-called colored people from the voter's roll and these women got up to protest and they formed the group and they stood- they chained themselves to the fences of the houses of parliament and they wore a black sash to show this sort of, this in mourning sign and that's how they got their name. And then they continued; they had branches around the country and they had advice officers, where people would- their members would volunteer their services and people would come in and it was usually for areas, things like people having been evicted because they weren't a with pass for the Group Areas Act.

Q: Now, I think, my understanding is that members of Black Sash had a certain social prestige because of who they were. I think. Or was it people of all the groups?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I just think that you- black people, the black people were perhaps a little- appreciative of what the Black Sash were trying to do.

Q: Was Helen Suzman at all connected with- she was a member of parliament at that time?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't- She was a member of parliament in the Cape. No, I don't ever remember Helen as being- because I was a member of Black Sash in Pretoria.

Q: You say they chained themselves in Cape Town.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, to parliament one day.

Q: Do you remember which- what did people do in Pretoria in Black Sash?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: We did quite a few things. We would- when, in '87 when they banned all the- "The Mail" and "Guardian" and the other newspapers and that, we held demonstrations in the streets and that. But the most helpful thing that we did, I think was, running this advice office, where we would take and then we would get lawyers to work pro bono and assist people.

Q: Now this obviously was extracurricular to your position at the embassy.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Was there ever any question about your doing both things at the same time? Did anybody ever-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: What, by the embassy?

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No.

Q: No. The embassy was just fine, just fine.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. Didn't mind, no.

Q: Because the embassy, I think, was dealing with laws and practices that the embassy did not agree with. For example, refusing to get the passes that would allow them into the black market.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: So there was a certain confrontation but they had to be following some of the rules, I suppose.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Okay. Well, we're still talking about CIP here and you were mentioning, off line, there was an individual who sort of became the unofficial South African representative.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes, a Mrs. Mary Uys. She went in '62; she's gone to heaven a long time ago. And in initial years there were two, three, four people a year. When I started off in '73 there were five that year and then five and four and then they started, every now and again there would be extra- we'd get extra money for a special program and the numbers would then be increased.

Q: Now, what, Gill, explain how, in a country of, what, 40 million or something like that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, now, yes.

Q: We're talking about five per year.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Tell me, how can you change a society with five people?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Each little drop; each person has a multiplier affect and each person reaches somebody else and goes on with the group and they're an inspiration to the people in the community with them.

Q: Did you find that some of the visitors, or most of them in turn, aside from their personal and family connections, did they make public appearances that may have alluded to their visits directly or indirectly?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Very often they would- most people would give great credit to their American experience. And you'd get some who didn't want to share, who didn't want to- another companion. Don't forget, people who have been deprived of so much for so long are going to also want to keep things to themselves so they perhaps wouldn't be so good about recommending other able candidates.

Q: A certain jealousy, yes?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. But that's, you know, that's-

Q: That's not South African; that's human.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: That's worldwide.

Q: That's human, yes, that's human. Okay, but whereas Mary Uys was active or- was she self-selected? Did she- after her experience-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know; that was in '62.

Q: That would be before, before you were there.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was all before my, yes.

Q: But she was known to you as a CIP alumna who was helpful in finding other candidates.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Yes, yes, yes.

Q: Okay. Now, did CIP candidates come from the various provinces? Did they tend to be from one-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: From all over. And they were all races. As I said, OCA was the only program which was restricted to people of color.

Q: Okay. In its final days OCA did have white South Africans; very few, very few.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know that I ever met-

Q: I met some actually.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. No, no, no, no, you are right.

Q: The point is that CIP-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, you are right. In, just in the last couple of years.

Q: But CIP did not have this policy and they welcomed everybody.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Okay. Again, before going to Fulbright, other recollections of the individual program- well, and group, group program, because sometimes you would send small groups that would be- become part of larger groups, the single country programs, you would collect three, four, five, six South Africans, send them together perhaps.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. I think something that's important to say is when I was first started being involved with the IV program, just about everybody went on an individual grant and South Africans weren't sent on group, multi regional group projects or regional group projects because having a South African in the group, no matter what his or her color was, was like a lightening rod and the whole group would then only want to talk about what was happening in South Africa. And I think they found it disruptive and they didn't- and gradually they started to go more and more into group projects until now I think the majority probably are on group program- even in my last years.

Q: I think so.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because it was also, I mean, it was- on a group program you've got access- a high powered person is far more likely to make him or herself available for an hour or two to meet with a group of 10 or five or 20 than they are for just one little individual.

Q: Groups will get to see Sandra Day O'Connor; individuals may not.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: That's from my own experience.

Okay, so until the social change took place in South Africa it was just difficult for many reasons and to mix any type of South Africans-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I mean, they did go; they did go on group programs but really- And we also then would occasionally have single country projects but for the most part people were on individual programs.

Q: What were some of the themes of the single country projects? You would have people of a similar profession, I think; journalists or community-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Gender; maybe some gender issues.

Q: Gender. Are we now into the '80s here?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Into the '80s, yes. But I mean, you had asked me about numbers; if you look-

Q: Okay. So just taking your- maybe at random, 1988-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Going to looking at my records and that, in 1988 there were 47 people went on the IV program and those numbers there, 1989, large, the budget was very, very large.

Q: Yes. Did you think that South Africa got an increased share of IVs because of its special circumstances?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think also- I think we were quite on the ball. We would always send a number of alternates and then towards the end of the year, when other posts hadn't used up their funds, we had the people there already, the application was in, the person was able to go.

Q: So some of your 47 was by dint of your own cleverness?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think probably.

Q: Some of them were allocated, yes, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And the same happened to the Fulbright.

Q: Yes. Ready to shift to Fulbright?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Okay. And if you aren't- I don't know if you want to go to the '90s, when after-

Q: Yes, oh yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because, I mean, that was a hugely important part-

Q: Especially when AID assisted in paying for some of these, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. We once got, going with AID money, it was all secret; we weren't allowed to know that the money came from AID but I think it was about in 1978 was the only time we had an undergraduate program and we sent undergrad students, about 18 of them, to get bachelor degrees-

Q: You weren't allowed to know that AID-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: We didn't want anybody to know that it was- We didn't want the South African government to know that it was- that AID money was being spent in South Africa.

Q: What difference would it be to-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: This was in 1978. Don't forget AID wasn't-

Q: But it's the U.S. Government. To the South African government what difference would it make if it's the embassy or AID?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know; they just called it CU/AF. I just remembered that.

Q: Yes. The bureau-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I mean, I wasn't- didn't have access to classified material and things like that, so.

Q: Yes. Okay. So the idea was that the South African government would not have been comfortable having USAID money spent without going through the government or something like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Perhaps, perhaps. I'm not sure.

Q: Which is a problem- which is a factor in every country, overseas aid. The government always wants it and AID sometimes does and sometimes does not-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Want to work with-

Q: -agree to go through the government; in this case not, I suppose.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But what I was going to say was after the South African government- after, you know, Mandela was released, etc., the United States Government threw money at us and we had all sorts of money and all sorts of different categories. DES [Dire Emergency Supplemental]; I loved that.

Q: Dire emergency.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Dire Emergency Supplemental, yes. That enabled us to send people for short periods, countless people who today hold very senior government positions.

Q: This is AID funded, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, I don't know. You know, for me it just came from Washington, yes. And that was followed by COLD.

Q: Sorry; starting in 1992, when he was released? Or thereabouts?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Roundabout there, yes. Let me, if I just look and see- Ninety-two.

Q: Okay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Ninety-two; '92 we sent- started sending people with dire- DES.

Q: Dire emergency. And then we should explain, I think, they called it "dire emergency" because the situation was changing so rapidly and the idea was not to avoid catastrophe but to benefit from the changes. Urgency they might have called it, rather than emergency.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Emergency, yes.

Q: Maybe, maybe. But-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: That was followed by COLD.

Q: COLD.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: COLD. Community Outreach and Leadership Development.

Q: Similar money for similar purpose.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Yes, yes, yes. Also helping to address the imbalance and level the playing fields for historically disadvantaged.

Q: Right. And between- By the way, between '92 and '94, was there any question that there would be a major political change? Was it a given that the change was coming?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. But don't forget there was a lot of violence and that going on as well.

Q: Potentially much more.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: More unexpected.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And things also with people, Mandela sort of clashing with de Klerk.

Q: Yes. So that must have been a very important period, '92 to '94.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And of the people that, you know, we sent-

Q: And this was the time when these dire emergency, COLD-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And then followed by the TSF, Transitional Support Fund.

Q: Yes. So they changed the name of it but the gist of it was similar; it was to accelerate the exposure of the future leaders to the United States.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And they all- they sent people, well we sent people in all different groups. We sent people from the Institute for Multi Party Democracy; there'd be a group from there. We'd send people from [inaudible, Safety and Security provincial legislature group. We sent a group that- of eight military folk, four from the South African, four from the South African military and four from the MK [military wing of the ANC.]

Q: Now, this was a very dramatic event. I was present at the debriefing of this group.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, okay.

Q: It was Bob LaGamma's idea.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was Jerry Kenner, and who was the econ officer who subsequently became ambassador? Don Steinberg. He was a driving force with that.

Q: Really?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Okay. Now, that was dramatic because it was very risky. You had people in the same room and sharing at a period where the outcome was unknown-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Who had guns against one another.

Q: Spending their efforts trying to kill each other.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: So this was conflict resolution, enormous conflict resolution. What was your recollection of the- selecting that group, the- Did you sense any risk in putting these people together? Was there any apprehension? These were enemies trying to kill each other, put in the same group.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But I think, no, me, I always think everything is going to turn out right, so I wouldn't have been-

Q: And it did.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And it did. Yes. But we had all sorts of different programs on constitutional reform and federalism, housing projects, conflict resolution; conflict resolution we sent a lot of people on that.

Q: What's the group in Durbin?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: ACCORD.

Q: ACCORD.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But now that- Accord was founded- one of my Fulbrighters was the founder of ACCORD and he came back. He went in about '85, I think.

Q: Wow.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Vasu Gounden.

Q: Vasu Gounden. I remember the name. I remember; yes, yes, yes.

So he was a Fulbrighter.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: And then he created ACCORD, the main conflict resolution NGO, not only for this country but for this part of the world.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. I have a wonderful Washington, DC red tee shirt that he brought me.

Q: And speaking of DC, you've mentioned a couple of trips. You went on two FSN training trips.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. In '79 and '85. And I went often on my own.

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I've been to the States 11 times.

Q: And when you went on your own you went to see friends; you went to see- And I think you would sometimes see some of your Fulbright grantees or-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They got- my bosses were very kind; on two occasions they gave me money to have luncheons in New York. On two occasions- times when there were a lot of students and they came from far and wide, the students. You may have about 20 odd coming for lunch and brunch; one time was brunch and one time was lunch. It was wonderful.

Q: These would usually be Fulbrighters, I guess.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They were Fulbrighters, yes.

Q: Okay. Because those were the ones who would stay for awhile.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Most Fulbrighters went for one or two years I think?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: One if they were doing an LLM or if they were doing a one year non-degree program but for most of them, the majority were actually two year programs.

Q: Did you do Humphreys from here?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Did all the Humphrey, yes.

Q: Yes, yes. And did some of them go to New York also?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: You just happened to be- In New York there just happened to be a concentration.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Quite a few would go to- Humphrey was big. And I spent time with the people in Humphrey and-

Q: Now, this you did on your private time?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, but it was such a joy, you know.

Q: Yes, yes. These were people you had assisted in doing their trips to the U.S. and then seeing-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, it was so nice to see that what I asked for, and I think that's how they were able to justify authorizing the expenditure on the- I mean, I was- I had seen them when they applied to go on their Fulbright application. I'd seen them at the pre-departure orientation program and now I can see them in situ, you know, doing what we'd sent them to do.

Q: And then I'm guessing you also saw them at a fourth stage when they returned.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: When they came back, yes. And I mean, we had- that was the wonderful thing about it; we've had very- the attrition rate's not been bad at all. They really have- they've all come, for the most part they come back.

Q: Oh, the terms of coming back, yes. Yes, I forgot to ask because that is a problem with some countries.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: You know, some stay. When they go for long times then that's when they fall in love and marry, want to stay and give-

Q: Well, we're opposed to love in this program. It creates brain drain. We discourage it.

Well, okay, and some of the fields of study of the Fulbrights and the- it was intended to be American content, American studies, American- but it was sometimes used for different purposes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, you could justify anything because it was going to be- the black student was going to be a role model so it didn't matter, even if it was areas that perhaps weren't of a high priority, like business, an MBA or so, but this was going to be the first person in the whole of South Africa who, you know- And we had several people who got- Jacob Mohlamme became the first black South African to get PhD in history and it was that sort of- So you could just-

Q: Was that through your program? Where was he, Columbia?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He went to Wisconsin. And I'll tell you why I'm proud of him, because he kept- we had already made our selections for the year and he came in to see me absolutely desperate. Reverend Buti from Alexandria had made him a promise that he was going to get him a scholarship and he got his admission to Wisconsin and everything and then Reverend Buti let him down. And here was this man, he thought he was just about on the plane and all of a sudden there was nothing. And I was able to persuade-

Q: A scholarship from his home university?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I'm not too sure where; I think not from the church or anything; he just made a commitment which he then was not able to maintain. And I was able to- I was so touched and the man impressed me so that I was able to persuade, and I can't now remember how we got the money, where we did, but we were able to get- I think there was extra money in Jackie Cotton's shop in ECA, and I think they were able to then give us an extra grant.

Q: In other words he was intending to go but not on a Fulbright.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Not on Fulbright, not at all.

Q: And at the last minute you were able to-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: To give him a Fulbright.

Q: Even though this was not the whole long elaborate process you made it happen.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. That was one that I know I did help with that.

Q: And have you maintained contact with Mohlamme?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Not for several years, no. He's retired now. Because I used to see his wife also and they came to my farewell party, the wonderful farewell party that Tom Hall gave me.

Q: Tom Hull?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Two thousand one or something like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, that was in 2001 that the party was.

Q: Yes, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: April.

Q: Well, we're not nearly at that point now.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No.

Q: Fulbright, Fulbright. Okay, so did you find a very cooperative sense- from Washington? You say that the field of study was less important than the demographics of giving some empowerments and enabling of people who would not have had that- turning to the sense of self confidence, perhaps.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Not long after Jerry and I started the majority of the panel, the panel that was chosen became black. We had, in South Africa, a category that I don't think any other country had; we called it placement only, and we would send vast numbers of South- my own, the man who got me to the center, Christof Heyns, was a placement only. You didn't give them any money but we would facilitate. They would go through the whole process and I used to say to them, you're perfectly entitled to put Fulbright scholar on your application, even though you didn't get any money from us, because you went through. We paid for them to do the GRE and the TOEFL and we paid their, you know, their entrance fees, etc., and the IIE treated them just as though they were a funded scholar.

Q: So where did they- how were they funded?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They were always so stellar that the universities either- either they had their own wherewithal or else the universities gave them such general fellowships, like Christof who got a full tuition waiver from Yale.

Q: So do we mention anything about Christof's father?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh. Because he was an IV; he was an IV and I'd worked with him, he and his wife. Christof's father was the moderator of the NHK (Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika), which is the Afrikaans- the Dutch Reform Church, and most of the government people were members of the Dutch Reform Church. And he was regarded as very enlightened for his position; he saw the error, I think, of the policies that the country was following and he clearly was too moderate for some because one night, when playing cards with his children, his grandchildren, he was shot by an unknown assassin, shot in the head, died; the assassin has never been found. This was in 1994-95.

Q: Oh, that late. The son, Christof Heyns, now the Center for Human Rights-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well no, Christof was the director of the Center for Human Rights for many years and the brain- Christof was the director of the Center for Human Rights and was the driving force behind the creation of many of the programs that we present at the center, two of which the center was awarded the 2006 UNESCO prize for human rights education, the first institution in Africa to get that award; 39 applications- 39 nominations in that year, we got it.

Q: We should explain the center is-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The center is a non-academic department in the faculty of law at the University of Pretoria and Christof is now the dean of the faculty of law; he's moved upstairs, literally.

Q: Now, we haven't talked about IDASA.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Institute, it was the Institute for Democratic Alternatives for South Africa and it's now the Institute for Democracy in South Africa.

Q: You were mentioning other - ACCORD and other groups - that did provide a steady stream of visitors and that was cooperative in doing programs-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh yes, well, there's Institute of Race Relations, the Urban Foundation, South African Institute of International Affairs, IDASA, lots of organizations.

Q: Yes. Now, in that sense this has been a very developed country for a long time.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Because-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Pretty much First and Third World.

Q: In what sense First and in what sense Third?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, after you think about it, in First, if you think that the first heart transplant took place in this country and we have Nobel Peace Prize winners, we've had Nobel literature winners and in scientific strides we've done a great deal, where some of our universities are competitive around the world. But on the other hand you have a huge- we've got the greatest, and I never know what this expression is, the greatest discrepancy between the rich and the poor. There's an expression one uses for that.

Q: The gap.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The gap between rich and poor, I think it's greater in South Africa than anywhere else in the world. And we have- we've got a huge unemployment rate, we have vast illiteracy rate, a lot of people homeless, many, many people- so very much-

Q: I can't resist the temptation to ask you about your sense of the last 10 years, we'll skip ahead for a moment, the whole country trying to grapple with this discrepancy, First World, Third World; how has this been working?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, you know, you can read in the press and that; I mean, I think so much has happened and nobody would go back to the old days at all. There's so much- more people have access to water, more people have access to electricity, more people have access to free health, to education, but- and there's been an extraordinary amount of black wealth as well. But complaint seems to be that it really has selected to a few; there are a few black billionaires now and there's an awful lot of people whose situation hasn't changed.

Q: And we're talking about housing, education, infrastructure, water, electricity, paved streets; there's been efforts and I was in Mamelodi yesterday; it looks better, it looks better.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes it does, doesn't it?

Q: Yes, but-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Did you see- Oh, obviously you went to the Science Library, so you went to our campus. Yes.

Q: Fantastic. Now, so there are examples that you can point to where there's been great material progress. Are you saying that this is not enough, the norm; it's more the exception than the norm?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, no. I think that it is, but I think also a whole lot of the people who occupy public- who are in the public service - haven't had the training and so a lot of the money isn't well spent and sadly, there has been a lot of corruption, we've got the best finance minister in the world, Trevor Manuel, we certainly do have. We've been shielded from the economic recession by the policies that he put in place, he and Mbeki, because, I mean, without Mbeki's approval he wouldn't have been able to apply those policies. I don't know how long we're going to remain protected from the globe-

Q: The crisis is worldwide.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It's worldwide, yes.

Q: Nobody is immune but you-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, but we have been quite-

Q: Well, repeat what you just said; best finance minister in the world.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In the world. I'm no economist but I-

Q: I know, but in terms of taking what there is and making the best of it.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. There's Pravin Gordon, who went on one of our programs in- after '94, who runs SARS, the South African Revenue Service, is reputed to be one of the best departments in the country. At the end of the year the "Mail" and "Guardian" always does a rating; you know, they give a report card for all the ministers, etc., and Trevor Manuel always gets an A.

Q: And Pravin Gordon was an IV?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He was- Well no, not an IV, he was one of these TSF [Transition Support Funds] or COLD or something.

Q: Oh yes, he did go on- Those tended to be shorter, more focused.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Very short lived, for about a week or ten days and focusing on a specific area.

Q: Now, you said a minute ago, back to the training. Those who were fortunate to benefit from our exchange programs had some training or had some exposure.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Do you wish we could have had ten times more?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, of course. Yes.

Q: Would it have made the difference, do you think?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Who could say?

Q: That's- Again, I ask you unfair questions.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It would be nice to say that it would have, but-

Q: Yes. When you were in the heat of this tremendous volume and tempo of exchanges, did you feel there was enough of it- Well, did you feel that there were enough people to make this happen, within the embassy? There was a lot of work. You, Gill Jacot Guillarmod, were often at that office until 7:00, 8:00 at night.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, no, no, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00 at night.

Q: Ten, 11:00, 12:00; pardon me.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: John Dixon used to say to me, I'm going home now, get out of here. And he was our desk officer.

Q: And this would be our desk officer in Washington with a six hour difference, sometimes seven.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes, yes. So nobody made me, nobody stood with a gun at my head, I did it and every moment gave me great, great joy. But I did feel troubled when, for no reason, I mean, why did they take away the money for the South African internship program? I used to think of it as a wonderful thing because we only touched on that briefly. That was based on the same program that- the same format that CIP had followed, we would send people to the States for two months, a two month program, live with American families and work under the guidance of a mentor. It didn't have to have a tertiary qualification to get it; you could be working in the driving- the drivers license thing.

I used to think of the Fulbright program as the American Government's long-term fix for South Africa and the internship program as our short-term fix, because you'd have somebody who perhaps worked in a drug and rehab- drug counseling section, as I said in the licensing department, somebody else in the social work department, other people in business; all sorts of areas, some on university campuses, depending on the particular area, and they'd have these two months and come back and it'd just give them a crash course in whatever it is they were doing. And then they'd- It was one of the reasons I left, was because I'd heard, the day that Christof phoned to ask me to come and join I had two- I'd had the last two days and when I'd come home and said what difference am I making to anybody else's life.

Q: Because of the reduction of funds for these programs?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. But it seems to be a lot better now and I've talked to my colleagues, Tashina and Irene and all of them, they've introduced a whole lot of pretty super programs that they're doing, really nice.

Q: Now, there are 200 countries in the world, more or less, clearly a very special relationship between the U.S. and South Africa, enormous Dire Emergency and Transition Support Funds; what- and this country had to make a lot of progress in a very short period of time. It did not do so only with the help of the U.S. What were some of the other benefits, the other programs? Was the UK involved?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. But don't forget, after 1990 then South Africa, everybody was throwing money at us and people- you were sending people who would say oh well, I can't go now because I'm going to Singapore or Australia or something, you know.

Q: So it wasn't the U.S. alone but the U.S. embassy was at the forefront.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, but for a long time it was the U.S. and the UK.

Q: Okay. When you say "everyone," well, you just mentioned Singapore; I guess the EU perhaps?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think so. Germany brought people over- Japan. I think Israel.

Q: Why do countries do this? What's in it for Singapore and Japan and Israel?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, perhaps it's, let's be charitable and say it's for mutual understanding, they want to promote a good relationship with- And so, and then thereby increase trade, educational exchange.

Q: Okay. Trade. Now we're, this is now March, 2009, and we're in an economic, worldwide economic crisis. Yes, you're quite right, I think, that in parliaments legislators and members of parliament justify the use of money to develop these programs by saying this will create a market. Where's this going now? Trevor Manuel has his hands full, doesn't he? And this goes-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And I mean, I don't know. Are the American people going to want, when you've got an unemployment rate that's increasing, are they going to want to put money into other countries, no matter how deserving they might be? I don't know.

Q: Existential questions. Maybe there's a new sense of the finite quantity of money; we never had that before. And make some tough decisions.

Okay, 1990s; everyone was pouring money- Before we get to the 1990s; again, you have the unique offering of having been here in the '70s and '80s. Everything changes in 1990, basically, and then '92 and '94.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think it must be harder to work with USIS now than it was when you and I were there.

Q: Please explain.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, I think because of that good guy/bad guy thing, because now, just because we have a democratically elected government in power doesn't mean to say that they're doing everything that's right.

Q: Why would this make it harder to work at USIS? Because- Was it-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I just think it was so easy to say, because you wanted to put the bulk of your grants into the good guys but now-

Q: We're not sure who the good guys are.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Actually not so sure who they are, yes.

Q: The good guys previously could be defined as the ones who were not in government.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Well, yes.

Q: And now- Okay. I was going to ask if you could contrast, and any aspect of it, the sense of the social dimensions, the political, whatever; '70s and '80s and then major change in the '90s. Before we leave the '70s and '80s, tell me your sense of the contrast. You've made some comments about it was horrible in the Cape and there were difficulties in dealing with the regime.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It wasn't, you know, I mean, it wasn't nice having to go, when you had a black visitor, to phone a restaurant and say hello, I'm Gill Jacot Guillarmod, and I'm going to be- I'd like a table for six for lunch; these two of my guests will be black. I had to get permission to do that. That wasn't nice.

Q: Permission from the-?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: From the restaurant; the restaurant had to say yes. And you know, some would say no, we don't want any black.

Q: Seventies and '80s. Now, could you have phoned up and said this is Gill Jacot Guillarmod, I'm bringing six visitors? Could you do that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And humiliate my guests?

Q: Ah, ah. Because they could have been refused entry-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, absolutely, yes.

Q: -at the door. So this was a routine; this was something you had to do all the time?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, always, always. We did different things, like, even in Jerry's day we had- we took a black cellist and a white pianist, or was it the other way around? And we went to- a hotel had just opened and we collaborated with "The Pretoria News" and we had a concert that people- there was no charge but you- there was a hat and you could give a donation to read- to LEARN, Let Every African Read Now, it was a program that "The Pretoria News" was having. So we did that and we didn't get permission for it- we didn't get any government or- permission for that but it was a very nice social occasion. And don't forget, you would have heard about- they didn't go on exchange, well, not many of them went on exchange programs but one of the things that the American embassy did was wonderful; we had the Pretoria Music Appreciation Society and we used to meet in that funny little multipurpose room downtown and have- and [inaudible], who was an OCAer, also in heaven now; he was one of Bart's driving forces; he went in '75. He was wonderful at- did a great deal to promote the arts and music in the townships and was instrumental in-

Q: In the '90s we talked about Eurocentric culture. Was that a factor in the '70s and '80s?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No.

Q: Promoting music- music was music.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Music was music. And jazz, we promoted jazz. And then we would have movies; we'd get- just because, don't forget black, there weren't bioscopes or cinemas for black people or anything; we would get- have movies from the States and then have everybody come and you had blacks and white South Africans.

Q: When you showed movies in townships what was the venue? Was there a community-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A community hall in the- We never, we didn't go- we didn't do that in- Well, I don't recall that we did that when I was up in Pretoria. I don't think we did.

Q: So you did bloody everything. You sent Fulbrights, IVs, Humphreys, interns, CIP and you also arranged-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I did all the exchanges, all the outgoing and for awhile I did the incoming also, and I did- Then as we grew we then had a cultural section; we had people like Sheila, you know, who did the- who dealt with- But in the beginning I used to do the incoming lectures and-

Q: How could one person do all of that?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: With luck and a nice typist assistant- it worked well.

Q: When you did this, you were a South African working for the government of another country, the U.S.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. When I was in Cape Town the guy from the South African information service came over to see me one day and asked me wouldn't I come and- I was single- wouldn't I come and work for them. And I smiled and I said you know, that's really very tempting because South Africa can only really go to nice countries, I know that. I said but if you are asking me to sell Pepsi Cola and I really liked Coca Cola then I might be able to do it. But you're going to ask me to do something that I really wouldn't want to sell. And he still continued to come and visit.

Q: So they wanted you; they saw the value in what you could do and they wanted to- they wanted your skills on their side.

Now, working in-between two countries, one of them, there was a certain antagonism between the two regimes, let's say. Where did you find yourself in this personally?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I used to get my "we" and "they" mixed up.

Q: Explain.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, well, I would say "we" and I even still- The other day I answered the phone and I said, cultural office, good morning.

Q: Really?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Happened to be [inaudible]. He said my God; he said you've been gone eight years.

Q: Now, if your subconscious was talking when you said "we," who was "we"? South Africa or the United States?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, very often it was America. It was America. But don't forget I watched- I saw a lot of changes, you know. I went through the time during the Carter Administration; the South African government wanted nothing to do with us. They avoided coming to Fourth of July functions, etc., for the most part. And then Ronald Reagan came in and with it the constructive engagement policy, which saw a reversal of those of us who liked us and those who didn't. But we continued to invite South Africans of all colors and political persuasions and actually as- though many blacks spoke out vehemently against the capitalist supporters of apartheid, when there were- as I said to you, when they were actually presented with the letter then they were able to accommodate their principles.

Q: Are you suggesting that constructive engagement, Chet Crocker, under Reagan, actually created a friendly- a greater friendship with the apartheid regime and a greater alienation of the majority population?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I do think that.

Q: Looking back, was it pragmatically the right thing or the wrong thing to do?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well you know, I think maybe it wasn't such a bad idea to try it because we achieved absolutely nothing under the previous administration and in fact it was becoming harder and harder, you know, to- I can't say more and more people were denied passports, I can't really say that but I think it was difficult to- I can remember- I struck up a relationship with a guy in the passport office and so- and I would phone him and then say oh come on, won't you tell me, is he going to get this? Just tell me; is he going to get the passport or isn't he? Because if he's not then we go- at least we know. But if you think he's going to get it even at the last minute I can be planning for his trip. And then one day when I phoned him he said, Gill, I'm sorry but I've been told I'm not allowed to give you any information.

Q: Really? So the person you dealt with, with a certain cordiality, was getting orders from above.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because I even- You know, even though I'd be damn angry with the answer, that's never been- I don't believe you-

Q: He was the messenger.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Absolutely. And he was only doing his job.

Q: Now, isn't it an irony Jimmy Carter remembered for human rights, because that was the policy. Many people say that it failed but anyway nobody doubts that that's what he intended to do. Jimmy Carter was more popular with the apartheid regime than Ronald Reagan. I'm sorry, is it the other way around?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, the other way around.

Q: Sorry, I meant the other way around; that it's ironic, is it not?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Now, Constructive Engagement.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think that's why people like Sheena Duncan were so happy when Ambassador Perkins came to visit, that he- here was an American who was going to listen.

Q: Nineteen eighty-seven, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think it was about then.

Q: Something like that, yes. And Perkins, I think, had a decision to make, as an African American, whether to accept or not accept to be America's representative in a country whose policies I think he differed with; I think he did not agree. But he did come, and did you feel that he was able to achieve anything?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think that- I think he did. You know, baby steps.

Q: Baby steps. Is that what it's all about in our business?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well isn't it?

Q: Yes, I think so.

Did you know Perkins well enough to know whether he felt- Well, did he feel he was making progress?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, I didn't know him well. Elizabeth Prior was his USIS person; she spent time with him.

Q: Okay. Okay, constructive engagement. I mean, it seems as if there are as many opinions about constructive engagement as there are people.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. I can remember Sig Maitrejean saying to us, that we got absolutely nowhere with the last policy; we are now trying something else.

Q: And was that persuasive, what she said?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think I couldn't- I don't think South Africans, black South Africans wouldn't have accepted that but I think I could see that it-

Q: As a pragmatic measure.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Just try-

Q: So I think-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And the thing is, it wasn't affecting our day to day work. My exchanges were still going with a flourish so I didn't really mind; I was still having the opportunity to send-

Q: Well, that's an important point, policy, policy which were all seized with in Washington, changes, it has different exaggerates-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But the exchange program goes on.

Q: Transcends, transcends.

What is it about the exchanges program, which is revered by so many people, the Fulbright inspiration, I guess, what is it about it that works so well?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, I don't know. I mean, I bump into people now who went 20 years ago and say oh, you've no idea what that did for me, that program. Dikgang Moseneke, who is the deputy chief justice of the constitutional court, he was- we had our moot court competition here in South Africa last year because it was the University of Pretoria's centenary, we had it here, and I had a dinner at the Pretoria Country Club for all our final- We have a very prestigious bunch of international jurists serve on the final panel and I had a dinner at the Pretoria Country Club and Dikgang arrived early and he was with my boss and normally assistant director, and was very, very proud the way he said you have no idea what this lady did for me, how she- You know, he made it [inaudible]; he was exaggerating.

Q: This was in your current capacity?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. This was last year.

Q: Yes, when you were here at the center.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But he said to them, telling them about my previous life, how I had- he made it sound as though I'd held his hand all the way around the United States. But he said you don't know what- he said that was such a wonderful program.

Q: Did the other people in the room understand what that was about?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: At this stage it was before the others; it was just my two bosses.

Q: Ah, yes, yes; okay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: So that was good for me, that he was saying that, you know.

Q: So this was an institution-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he said it when I had to take a group in 2005, when we had to move to Port- in Johannesburg. I took all the judges to the consulate, the chief justice hosted them, all those visitors, and it was the same thing; Dikgang- to all of them and to all his colleagues. He was a Robben Island "graduate."

So you know, they do, they remember their experiences.Q: So the people remember the program but they also remember you as the personal contact. You said so; you said so. You personalized it.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: The program was you.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I was just- I was really lucky. I was able to be Lady Bountiful. You know, I mean, it was me in particular, I think even more so with the Fulbright program than of any of the other programs, because with the IVs, CIP, etc., the branches connected more with the grantees. With Fulbright once they had gone through the interview, came to Pretoria, I dealt with them directly until it was time for them to be going. I would be the one who would phone them that- And I had a policy that I wouldn't go home at night until I had- If an admission offer had come through I wouldn't- even if it came through at 9:00 as I was going out the door, then I wouldn't go out the door because then I'd stay and let the student- person know, because I knew how- and I would be as excited as they, you know, to say, how does University of Los Angeles sound? You know? So, it was lovely, wonderful.

Q: Where else in the world is there someone who takes this job so personally.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, no, no; Monica Joyi, who took over from me at the Fulbright Commission; Monica-

Q: Now in Washington.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Now in Washington, yes. Monica followed in my footsteps. I think she heard- she would meet with alumni who would say oh, where's Gill? I think particularly with the Fulbrighters, you know, because you really have a chance to change their lives. They've gone over and they've been there for two years, and when they worked with you closely it did seem as though it was me and I'd always say but it wasn't me; it was the U.S. Government money and it was you; you because of your talent and your skills and your brains and everything, you know. But- and then Monica was very, very, good and she'd always, she'd phone- invited me to participate in the selection. I must say they- I continued with the selection thing.

Q: It's more effective in dealing with these programs to either pretend or to genuinely feel respect for the people you deal with. How do people learn this?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know. I just, you know, feel that I was so blessed. I must have done something very good in a previous life because it was so wonderful. On the other hand, in my speech at Tom Hall's party, I said that, you know, in all those years I never had a single day when I didn't want to go to work, even with the worst of hangovers, and I had many of those, and continue to have them.

Q: So, could you say you gave your liver for your country?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I can say that. Or for the United States.

Q: I mean, their country, their country; we, us.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: For your country.

Q: We can go backwards in time but since we're on it, since we're on it, remembering the day Tom Hall was the last PAO under whom you worked, I did too, at that time, what went through your mind during that farewell? This was an in-house thing or was it the whole- was it grand dī½part?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: There were 250 people there.

Q: Oh my gosh, oh my gosh.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It was in the Pretorian- There was an editorial in "The Pretoria News."

Q: Oh my gosh.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In fact, and I know that the person who wrote the editorial is Pippa Green, who's just written a biography on Trevor Manuel and Pippa invited me, I went to the launch of- And so both Trevor and Pippa have written in my book.

Q: Well, we must have a copy of that editorial for the archives. I'm sure you have one hidden away someplace.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think I do have that. I've got a picture of the-

Q: Two hundred and fifty at Tom Hall's residence, right?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, no, at the Pretoria Country Club.

Q: At the Pretoria Country Club.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. The mayor was there, because he was an IV.

Q: Now, the mayor, one of the mayors-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Mkhathshwa. And the other mayor was Joyce, was there also, yes.

Q: Let's remember Joyce for a minute. Joyce was-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: You know, I tried to get hold of her, haven't spoken to her for a couple of years. I've tried to get her on her birthday. And then I saw somebody at Mary Dean [Connor]'s the other night who said- I said please when you- if you see her, just tell her I'm trying to reach her, because I would like to just be in touch.

Q: Joyce was our colleague in USIS-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The admin clerk.

Q: -until 1994, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: And then she-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: She became the mayor of Pretoria.

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And she was a very gracious mayor. She was very nice. She did a very nice job when I would take- And it wasn't only me but on a couple of occasions that I took visitors to her there. I was very proud of her; she was very dignified and warm and well, she did a good job.

Q: I forget her last name.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Ngele.

Q: I believe the first week I was here was the week she left.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh really?

Q: And I remember we were saying to her, we expect you to remember us and evidently she did.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Okay, yes.

Q: She was-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And it was Richard Goldstone who got her out of jail.

Q: Jail?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: She was in-

Q: I don't know the story.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, oh no, no; she was imprisoned for a good six weeks or so, when we were still downtown, so that would have been about 1989; yes, round about there.

Q: Jail for what? For being there after dark?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: For- No, for her political activities. She and a whole bunch of women.

Q: Goldstone?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh he's just been one of the- was commenting on the Bashir thing now.

Q: The International Court of Justice.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He got- he was an IV in '84.

Q: I'm silent because this is-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: All the people who went on this program, yes.

Q: And he, who was of the organization that indicted President Bashir yesterday, an IV, was instrumental in getting Joyce Ngele out of jail.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Having Joyce released from prison.

Q: Wow.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. It's always so nice when I see him. He's a true gentleman. I just remember that. There are a few who I do remember, you know.

Q: Yes. And then he became a major- I do remember- a major international- he was in the International Court of The Hague.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: The Hague, yes.

Q: When did he- because he's been there quite awhile.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He's also been a visiting professor at NYU (New York University), I think, or Columbia, one of the two. I think NYU, he and his nice wife, Nolene.

Q: He left South Africa not forever, I suppose.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. He comes back, he comes back.

Q: But at least a very long-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he still is very involved in ORT, the Jewish charity. I forget what it stands for, ORT. He's a practicing Jew.

Q: Oh, back to the retirement party. Two hundred fifty people; I suppose it could have been 3,000 if the ones who really wanted to could have come.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Something went wrong with the invitations. I was unhappy because on my first day here I wasn't too sure where to park and I was walking across the campus and I bumped into two people who said what are you doing here? And I said well I'm working here, you know that. I mean, you couldn't come to my farewell. They said we didn't know anything about it. So I don't know what happened with that.

Q: The invitations went missing.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I don't know. But- no, it was wonderful. And Tom was very supportive because you know; I agonized for four months before I decided to accept the offer.

Q: Well, a person who's taken personally so much, a working position, does not leave it lightly. But you say the reduction in resources was one factor.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A huge factor, huge. Because the Fulbright was now with the Fulbright Commission; I wasn't doing the Fulbright anymore. And then- I mean, I spent 60 odd a year on the internship program so that was very time consuming and that was going to be going, leaving me, and I just didn't know what else. And when I eventually went to speak to Tom [Hull, PAO] he said I've watched the diminishing of your position with concern and he said I wondered what you were going to do. And he said to be honest I think- He said I don't know that I would have said this if this was the start of my tour, but he said seeing how I'm leaving I think if you are going to go anywhere I think you could go to no finer place than the Center for Human Rights and work for anybody less, you know, of a person than Christof Heyns.

Q: Tom was here '96 to 2000, I think, something like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, he left in- he left after me, he left after me because he was again, at the party, he left in about August/September. Look here, I just got the invitation to his daughter's wedding.

Q: Yes, I heard that-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And then he was really good because he then went to Addis Ababa-

Q: Yes, DCM.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Where he was DCM. And then he went as ambassador to Sierra Leone and he hosted my LMN students on two occasions to- he got all the embassy, his political officers and everything, my group of students. We send them as part of the program they go on a field trip, they break up into groups and they are going to go to other places now but they went to Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Somaliland and Tom had them-

Q: These are law students?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Law students, yes, master in law.

Q: And so they got a special welcome in Sierra Leone.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes. And also in Rwanda because Brian George was there and then Jerry Keener was there also. So I keep looking to see where are they going next, where have a got a contact, you know. And of course Tom and I worked together in '79 when he was ACA, that's where- I mean, his daughter was born here.

Q: Tom was eager to be part of this project and-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He'll be, let me tell you, he'll be very good because his memory and his notes are terrific, I can tell you. And have you spoken to Brooks, Brooks Spector? Because I promise you you'll get more from Brooks than the rest of us; you really will. You really will.

Q: I'm writing it down.JACOT GUILLARMOD: I have his telephone number.

Q: Thank you, I'll take it up. And I am in close touch with Tom; he was going to come and spend a weekend with me, actually.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh really?

Q: Yes. He will. It had to be rescheduled.

You know, in a short time-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Nick Mele's another one. He was JOT [Junior Officer in Training]. He was one; he took Gaby Magomola to the airport in the boot of his car.

Q: Tell me that story.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, [inaudible] was going on a Fulbright. Was it Fulbright or IV? Which is it? I'd have to look that up. And we- the security- these were after him. And I wanted to get him out of there and so took him and he rushed him-

Q: Well, how did he make it on the plane? If they-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, well he- they weren't that smart to know that we were getting him there.

Q: If you could get him in the airport he was ok.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Though he must have lacked the documents.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, he had a passport.

Q: He had a passport?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. We often- it was Gaby Magomola at my- Gaby was at my farewell also and Gaby- they did a wonderful book. Remember to ask me tomorrow night, ask me to show you; they did a book and people who were there wrote messages in it and it's really- it's very nice and Gaby wrote and he said, you know, you took me, a jailbird, to be- those days. And I kept his passport for him so that they couldn't- until it was time for him to go.

Q: What was the importance of your keeping his passport?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well just that it was on diplomatic territory and then if they- they couldn't come and get it, take it away from him. It was just a precautionary-

Q: So the passport exists that they would have cancelled it but they couldn't.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He got it- Yes.

Q: So he had it previously.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He had it but you know it was a precautionary measure. He'd been released from jail; they might have just, out of a moment of spite, wanted to deprive him of this opportunity.

Q: Was this your idea to take the passport?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I can't remember. I might have.

Q: Yes. It was a mutual consent. And they were looking for him because of his political activities? He was-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Was there a warrant for his arrest or something like that or they just wanted to intimidate him?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, we went to Nick Mele and I, we went out, we got stopped in a roadblock. We went to his farewell party that they- He's written a book that I've got a copy of his-

Q: My gosh, oh my gosh.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Because he was in the States for a number of years. He went- On the Fulbright he went to do an MBA at Ball State University and then he stayed on and he did another degree, which I can't remember now.

Q: But he did come back?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He's back now; he's a successful businessman.

Q: It usually takes many, many hours to get this much information out of a person.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It's lovely; I enjoy it.

Q: It's coming.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Monica's always tried to get me to write a book; she said I'll do the work.

Q: I would say the same. And this transcript is raw material.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It's lovely.

Q: Raw material for such a thing.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, I'm sort of thinking of things that- I'm not sure what you're hoping to get at the end of the day because I don't know, I mean, do you want to get the juicy things, the awful things that the South African government did or the wonderful things that we- I'm not sure-

Q: I'll tell you the name of this project which, I mean, the name I gave to it, "Outsmarting Apartheid." It's you, Gill, who gave me that idea; not the words but you gave me the idea because I know that's what you did during those 20 years; you outsmarted them many times. And the project has no trick agenda. We're talking about lessons learned and how diplomacy and public diplomacy in this case, can be used to create peace. It sounds very corny and very-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, but then you absolutely must speak to Brooks because you know, Brooks was the one who was the driving force behind the Dance Theater of Harlem, which broke the cultural boycott. And your government was very mean and awful to him. They took him out of here just before the Theater arrived and Rosemary Crockett was here and got all the credit. Now, that wasn't Rosemary's fault but poor Brooks wasn't here to get all the glory and kudos that he deserved.

Q: Took him out? Did he leave prematurely?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: They ended his tour. No, but they could easily have-

Q: They could have let him stay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: -let him stay. They could have easily let him stay.

Q: And he now lives in Pretoria I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In Johannesburg.

Q: Johannesburg, with his South African wife, I think.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And do you know, he was just at a- [inaudible] Ainslie, who was the Johannesburg Art Foundation; she passed away last week and there was a memorial service for her. I just couldn't go and Brooks had asked me for a few remarks and I got- I met John Burns's wife also. She said a few things and then Brooks spoke and he told me who all was there and I just wanted to die that I hadn't been there; Coral Nellon, Helen Sebidi and [inaudible]; ooh, just all those people that I had worked with.

Q: The cultural boycott. The intention was to put pressure, I think, on the regime, both economic-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, cultural and sporting, and the sporting, particularly the sporting.

Q: -cultural, sporting, economic. At one point there was an arms embargo under Reagan. Was it the right way to- it was a well intentioned thing; did it work?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. Oh, I do think so.

Q: Did it succeed?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think F.W. must have seen that look, no one out there...

Q: No one wants to be a pariah.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And we're not going anyway. What's going to happen to our economy?

Q: So the boycott in every form was indeed a surgical, effective policy?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think it was. I mean, it wasn't nice. Let me tell you, to travel as a South African was just horrible, horrible. I can remember in '85 when I was- took a cab, I was going, actually going to John Hicks's place for dinner and a huge, big guy from Sierra Leone and he told me, I mean I asked and he told me, volunteered that he was a doctoral student from Sierra Leone and he couldn't wait to get his degree so that he could get back home so that he could man an army to drive those whites of South Africa into the sea.

Q: Is that one of those days that you were a Canadian?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: So he said where are you from? And I said Australia. I wasn't in a ten minute taxi drive going to take him on, you know. So I said Australia.

Q: And he fell for it? He thought you were Australian?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Now, so the boycott was effective; was Brooks Spector's choice and efforts in breaking the boycott, was it well timed?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: It came at the right time?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think so, yes.

Q: This would have been-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It took him years.

Q: -'93, something.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It took him years. He worked on it for years.

Q: This was his personal thing.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It really was.

Q: Did he have to explain this to higher authorities in the U.S.? Must have had to.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I suppose so, yes.

Q: Somebody-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he spoke to people here. You know, he's better connected than anybody in the arts world, just- And I sing his praises. I know, you know, I know Brooks rubs his American colleagues up-

Q: I never met him.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But he and I- Oh, haven't you?

Q: Nope.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, and he's been very unpopular with his colleagues.

Q: Really? Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But he's the- I think he's probably- he was certainly the most creative, imaginative CAO that I ever worked with. We had, during Bill- And he and [Ambassador] Bill Swing were just the right people to be together because Bill Swing wanted to meet with everybody. We had Paul Simon; we had Whoopi Goldberg; we had them all at the residence. We did the whole cast of "Ain't Misbehaving" do a performance. Abdullah Ibrahim play and all Brooks responsible, all in the results.

Q: So, and Bill Swing was quite open to all of this?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh yes.

Q: And must have been-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And then Brooks and I together, we organized what I think was the best thing the embassy ever did and everybody around said it was also. When Brooks came to me he came and he said- he came back as cultural attaché¹/₂. We had worked together in '76 when he was ABPAO in Johannesburg, and we worked well together on the exchanges program. And when he came again, had been PAO in Swaziland and then came to be cultural attaché¹/₂, and he said to me, what can we do to- and he was always looking for something new to do. And I said you know, we haven't done anything with the grantees; we really haven't done with them. We've got a brand new ambassador; why don't we start- We brainstormed, between the two of us, and we triggered a-

We ended up having a dinner at the Carlton Hotel and we had entertainment and we used former- people who had been on our exchange programs; we got them to do it. Siho Mpamle, now in heaven, read his poetry. Mary Jane Mohodiela told a story that she rambled on, unfortunately. Christof's father gave the- said the grace at the dinner. We- let me just think who else. Well, we ended with- We had Sean Reddy played the piano and we ended with Evita, who ended up with singing, "Free start and God bless America."

Q: Was this a certain individual depicting Evita Bezuidenhout?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, it was Pieter-Dirk Uys.

Q: Pieter-Dirk Uys.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: As himself playing Evita.

Q: Evita Bezuidenhout, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He changed in my room-

Q: Yes. He was an IV?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He was an IV; that's why I asked him. He went on the Iowa writers program, and he cut the program short and I was at a show- a perform- one of his performances afterwards and he said being in Iowa was like being in Vrystaad. And "Vrystaad, I was born in Vrystaad." I found it particularly funny.

No, but we had- I mean, there were a few hundred people there; everybody. It really was. We had everybody who'd been in the '80s and then Swing was so taken up with it, we had table of 10, yes, 10 at a table, and there was one of us, somebody from the embassy, an officer or something, and he hosted each table. And Swing, so taken up, he said he wanted to do it in Cape Town also. So we did it in Cape Town and there we did everybody from the '70s and the '80s. And I can't remember whether F.W. came; I can't- Frank would be able to tell you that. And then they wanted to do it- He said that was so- And we had David Kramer, who was- Eva Kramer and [inaudible] Peterson who- but David Kramer he said- We did this- followed the same format, you know, poetry, reading, music, etc., all donated. And then- well then we did in Durban and we did with everybody who'd ever been on an exchange program and so Brooks and I went to Cape Town and we went to Durban and that also- And I think that was really the things that we did and then Brooks doing the- was the best thing.

Q: So this was something you and Brooks thought up together.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: We did together, yes.

Q: And this was what? There's now an active alumni program which does- tries to do this systematically but I think it was-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But it was not, no, was nothing. I think that what they should have done at the embassy, and I suggested it but nobody took me up on it, last year, when it was the University of Pretoria's centenary, I think they should have done a University of Pretoria alumni thing because there's- I could that you wouldn't do it 10, 15 years ago when this was such a conservative place but it's not like that anymore. It's the most progressive university in the country.

Q: When did it become progressive? Because it was in the '80s it was thought of as very conservative.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In about- I can remember in about '94, I was at a function at, maybe a little bit later, '96 maybe, at something at the PAO residence and the former principle, Johann Van Zyl, a very charismatic, dynamic guy, and he was there and I'd had a couple of glasses of wine and was in my cups myself, and I said to him, you know, if anybody had ever asked me which would be the very last campus to transform I would have had no hesitation in saying this, and I said but it's such a pleasure to be able to say to you, you know, how good it is to have you-

Q: Was Van Zyl - would you give him some of the credit for the transformation?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Must be, it must have been.

Q: Yes. This happened in the early '90s I think, transformation, quite a transformation as I think I remember.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Except, don't forget, this place, the Center for Human Rights, was established here in 1986 in the heart of- when it was at its most conservative.

Q: Because much was said about Wits [University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg] being transformed but there were many- it wasn't done very harmoniously.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No. And also, don't forget, they never- there was less need for transformation from UCT and Wits, etc. This was a bastion. I couldn't bring Mary J. Barnett, the black belly dancer here because she was- they didn't want to have a black dancer.

Q: Why did they do this?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Again, pragmatism.

Q: Did they think it was inevitable, might as well just get on with it?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think so.

Q: And have it done. Do you think that they- your South African colleagues on this campus, are they proud of TUKS [University of Pretoria] for having done this.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, I think so. Listen, you've got your little freedom front group clique that you always had that are complaining to say that they're trying to do away with Afrikaans but I mean, we had our- if you see there we have our logo on everything; it was in three languages.

Q: Yes. It's Afrikaans, English and-?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: English and Sepedi.

Q: Sepedi, which is the local-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Local black language.

Q: Of the 11 languages this would be the one-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It's more local, yes.

Q: Without compromising-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: When you do it in an invitation, I mean, you've got to have it translated into-

Q: Three versions.

Apparently, without compromising academic standards.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I think not; I really do.

Q: Yes, this is an enormous success.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And we haven't had, touch wood, we haven't had any, you know-

Q: Discord or-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no violence, no.

Q: This is what's remarkable and I must say, I lived here 10 years ago; when I came today there seemed to be five times more people than there were. It's a huge numbers of people here that I don't think was the case-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Fifty thousand.

Q: Fifty thousand?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: You're kidding.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I'm pretty sure that it; let me just look. I went to a wonderful thing on Saturday with Bishop Tutu.

Q: So Bishop Tutu came to this campus?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. He's got an honorary doctorate from here too.

Q: Ah.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: One of my favorite things was, and whenever I was asked to make a presentation on the Fulbright program, and I did that to all the people who were then on the committee before the Fulbright Commission was established, they came out from Washington and everything and I went to Cape Town to do that. And then I said, you know, I gave them all the statistics and I said, can I just give a little bit of a personal thing about why I think this is such a wonderful program. And I told them about- I said, you know, there have been so many magnificent Fulbrighters that one or two stand out in my mind, never to be forgotten. And I always tell the story of Johnny Mekwa, the trumpeter.

Q: Oh yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And I went- You remember that, yes.

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And I'm sure you know, I've told you this story also then so- We interviewed him in Durban and he was a late student. He was the first black student to do that- get a bachelor in jazz studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal under Darius Brubeck. And he started- His uncle was the embassy DCM's driver, Johannes Mekwa; and that's just coincidental.

And he graduated- got his bachelor when he was over 40. And we asked him, as we do everybody, you know, why should we send you, why do you want to go? And he said because I want to go and I want to learn things that will help me to come back and get my kids off the street. And he went to Indiana and he was very successful. He got his Master his jazz studies in two years, made all sorts of connections in the music world in America, and he came back, and he hadn't been back weeks and he went to the Daveyton, the Daveyton township there. And he went to the city council and he talked them into giving him a building, an unused building, and then he went to knocking on the corporate doors and he's very persuasive. He's a huge man; he's a huge man. I worry about him desperately for heart attack material.

And he went knocking on doors and Rick Menal, he always talks about Rick from, I think, either Anglo or De Beers, one of them, got generous money from him and all sort of other people got funding and he went to other fellow musicians to get them to agree to give up their time to give classes and then he went into the streets and he got his pupils. And they came from the streets and 18 months later they won the jazz competition in Chicago. And then he got here, about three years ago, the University of Pretoria ordered him an honorary doctorate and I was sitting in the third row as his guest. I remember him phoning me and he said, oh Gill, hey Gill, I'm telling you. And then he said and I'm going to get my ringgo now. I said good, Johnny, it's going to be a hell of a lot of red material.

And a year and a half after we did UNISA (University of South Africa) did exactly the same thing. But in his remarks, and he dedicated his award- he broke down crying and couldn't finish- but he dedicated it to John Burns, was one of the people, to Rick Menal and to many of his other musicians who had gone before. Obviously just when he thought about them it just made him cry and he wept. Isn't that a wonderful story? And then he got an honorary doctorate at UNISA and he kindly - I was his guest there too. And I sat next, with Professor James Khumalo, who's the person- who was an IV in '74 and he was the person who put together our South Africa national anthem.

So see, we've done things here in this- But he went- when Professor Khumalo went in '74 it was on a very strange program; it was a program we sent three Zulu students to the University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale to teach- while they were studying they were teaching Zulu to the American students, and Professor Khumalo was- I think he ended up as a lecturer but he was their sort of warden, going with them. But he then also- His claim to fame now is that he wrote- he's composed lots of wonderful music but I mean, he put together our national anthem. You know, the combining of the two.

Q: The two.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Nkosi Sikelel and Die Stem.

Q: Nkosi Sikelel and Die Stem, to show-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And in English.

Q: -the inclusiveness of the greatest groups.

Now, before we get to what you're doing presently, Gill, looking back at the times you spent at the U.S., do any particular individuals stand out in your memory?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, I was very proud of- that we sent Maki Mandela, who was former President Mandela's daughter from his first marriage, and I happened to be on my three month senior FSN program in '85 when she was there and I had a photograph of she and I and Mickey Morgan, who's subsequently become a vice chancellor himself. There were three of us; photograph taken in the grounds of Gallaudet University-

Q: Yes, school for the deaf in Washington.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, school for the deaf, yes, and we were there on a program. And I used to come back and then when things got really hot in South Africa I would have this photograph and I used to say that- what I would say is if there was a horde coming towards me, a marauding, people with sabers and things, I would-

Q: Hold up the picture.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: -this is me with Mandela's daughter. And she was very good; she came to my farewell party, which was very nice of her.

And my other only- I haven't met President Mandela, which is- that's my one- If I could meet him then I could die happy. I haven't met him.

Q: How could he be- how could he fail to seek you out? What's his problem? Does he not understand what you did?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But I did have when Ambassador Lyman was here, as he was leaving he came to me and he said he wanted a favor, that President Mandela had only made- had made three phone calls to him during his duration and two of them had concerned a young man called Tanda Bantu Kwandawala, and he was a chief from the area where President Mandela had grown up and he wanted him to get a post graduate qualification and would I help. And I really thought, oh, this is my chance to be doing something. And Tanda Bantu and I spoke often on the phone, that I really bent all the rules because I rewrote his application. We put in all- and we got two scholarships for him from Massachusetts, because he wasn't a stellar student.

Q: What was Mandela's interest in this man?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because he was a chief from Mandela's part of the world and Mandela wanted to build up his-

Q: So this was a social-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: For that part of the world. And then Tanda Bantu phoned me one day and said no, that he couldn't go anymore, that his people, the chiefs around were begging him to stay. And I- In those- Then- At that time I was in touch with President Mandela's assistant, a lady who has since died, and I said to her, you know, he's a man. We can't make him go if he wants- The only person who might be able to persuade him is the president himself but obviously he couldn't. But I got a very nice letter from him back, thanking me for that.

Q: So he did go back to his village and-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And stayed, yes.

Q: Any sense of-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: But I met- When I was on one of my programs here I met up with Chief Bantu Holomisa, who's a former IV also and he's the head of- the chief of the traditional leaders. He's a member of parliament and that also. And I asked him, we were down on a program down on the Eastern Cape, and I asked him if he knew Tanda Bantu and he said yes, he did and he would give him my regards whenever he saw him.

Q: But this was a real person- this was not sending somebody's cousin or something like that.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, no, no.

Q: It was a real person of that time.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, that-

Q: Who needed to learn leadership qualities.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Probably, yes, probably. But in the end he didn't go, so, I don't know where he is now.

Q: Now, without going through the laundry list, you were saying a moment ago who- what came of all of this. The people- we can't take full credit for somebody being the minister of this and that just because they were to the U.S. but it's clear that many of today's leaders in South Africa were affected by the benefits of going to the U.S. Any examples come to mind?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Well, I mean, we sent, you know, there was a time when we would- after Mandela had been released and we were getting all this DES, COLD money, etc. We had several group programs where we sent people and if I go through the list on that, I mean, there was one on constitutionalism, where the people who went on it, I mean, Pius Langa, who's now the chief justice; Matole Mastekhana; Bulelani Ngcuka, who was the head of the international prosecuting authority that was the first person to stop- who charged Zuma; Albie Sachs, a judge on the constitutional court; Louis Skweyiya, a judge on the constitutional court; Zola Skweyiya, minister of social development. I mean, that was all in just one program; it really was.

Q: Do you think there is a logic, cause and effect between the benefit of going to the U.S. and the fact that the person's curriculum vitae looked better as a result? Did that help people actually get positions or was it more-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I shouldn't think so, no. No, no, no. I think it was just-

Q: It's a coincidence. These are people-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: It would have just informed them better.

Q: Right. So these are people who are very-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Who were established.

Q: -astutely chosen by Americans and South Africans who understood that they were going somewhere important and were able to detect it beforehand.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: Yes. Okay, well you've just given- of the many, many programs you've done there's just one, the-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. There was another one on the demo- elections for the democratic convention and Essop Pahad, who was in Mbeki's office who's now out on his ear, he was one. He was with the South African communist party. He went on that one.

Q: Was this the recent Democratic convention?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, no, no; also '92.

Q: Ninety-two.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Because that's what I'm saying. You know, they were all identified then, in the '90s.

Q: Others will come to mind and we can add that.

Now, may I- I don't want to miss anything but can we talk about your present position and how your knowledge and your experience from working in the embassy serves the purpose of your present activities?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Sure. One of the- I'm quite sure the reason Christof asked me to come and work here was because there was a function, and you might not need this but just for your own edification, there was a function here, they gave- the university faculty awarded their woman in law award to Frene Ginwala, who was then the speaker of the house of assembly, and I was a guest. They're really good about inviting me to different functions and I came quite often. And it was a real who's who in the audience and most- I just seemed to know just about everybody; I had a wonderful time.

And now that I know Christof I could see the way he thinks, that he obviously looked around and he thought, oh, she could be useful to us. Because I knew people and they knew me so I was having loads of warm discussions and that. And at 10:00 that night I got a phone call from him saying I've had a crazy idea; wouldn't you like to come and work for us? And that was- I told you that I hadn't- I said to him, normally- you know how much I love my job but I would normally, you know, just say thank you but no thanks, but I said I've had two days in a row when I thought what difference am I making and I said I believe in coincidences; may I think about it? And I agonized for four months and I eventually then decided- a lot of upset- I wrote to a few of my colleagues that I had worked for, people who I thought would have USIS's interests and my interests at heart and only one said don't go; Jody said don't go.

Q: Lewinson.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Jody Lewinson, yes. She said no, stay, stay where you are.

Q: Christof valued you so highly that he was willing to wait four months to get an answer.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, he created the job for me so there wasn't anybody here; they created the position. And so I then did come and where I think it's been helpful that- From the mid '80s we took a constant decision in- at USIA that we looked at the statistics of the number of lawyers in the country and the absolutely abysmal percentage of those who were black, and so we got special money from Washington, Washington agreed to give us, in collaboration with Georgetown University, and we had- for several years it was called the South African Black Lawyers Program and we chose five or six and when Vasu Gounden was speaking he went on that. And there are several people now so, but as a result I ended up building up a large- a database of black lawyers because we had sent, over the years we sent so- you know, we had sent so many. And I think that's been very helpful. I know just about every judge on the constitutional court now, has been on one of our exchange programs and I'm able to- I have to- Sandile Ngcobo was a Fulbrighter. They don't all, to be honest. Some of them remember we well; others were reminded, others are just being polite because for them it was just an experience and maybe I didn't work with them all that closely. But we remained in the embassy's- I kept in touch with the embassy about the- with the Fulbright program and served on the interviewing committee and on, a couple of years on the national selection committee. I've worked with the cultural section to- when they have speakers who they want to bring up to the University of Pretoria, sometimes even not in the field of law, I've worked with the embassy.

Q: What is the scope of your work now? What has Christof Heyns asked you to do?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I'm the liaison officer for the Center for Human Rights.

Q: Liaison-?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Meaning public relations officer for the Center.

Q: Tell me about the collaboration between the embassy today and what you're doing today in your capacity.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. This professor that I- was chiding me because I haven't responded to him. A professor- there's a Professor Anayin who is at Emory University and he is an extraordinary professor here. Our budget is very limited; we're dependent on donors for our existence. Just about all of us are subcontracted employees.

Q: The Center.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Here at the Center, at the Center, yes. So for us to bring a professor out from the States is money that we don't have but now that we have the facility to make use of the embassy's facility for doing a digital video, so that's what we're going to do. We're going to take our LLM students along next Wednesday and Professor Anayin will deliver a lecture to them and then there will be time for them to- for Q&A (questions and answers) afterwards.

Q: So you'll be using the facilities where you used to work, working with students, law students here-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: That are from my present-

Q: -at the University of Pretoria. And- Is it still called TUKS even in the-?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes.

Q: And because you're so conversant with both sides of it there's a dialogue that would not have happened but will between a professor at Emory and a group of students here. What will the subject of the discussion be?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Let me just look up and see. Islam and- while we're chatting I'll look that up.

Q: So the topic of the digital videoconference?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Will be Islam and human rights.

Q: Islam and human rights. Is there an agenda that the Center here has for this discussion? Is there an outcome that the Center wants or is it a free open discussion?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: No, I think they just always- It's a very intensive course, this Masters in human rights and democratization and they try and touch on all aspects. It concentrates on Africa but you know, Islam is very powerful in Africa also.

Q: Yes. I mean, the title implies that somebody wants to have a discussion about how Islam can be consonant-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I guess.

Q: -with human rights perhaps.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: I guess so; I'll tell you next Wednesday. I'll go with the students, you know.

I had just joined here when Christof told me that there was an American professor that they were really hoping, they wished they could get over. And I worked with Monica and with the Fulbright senior specialist program and we got a grant for a Dr. David Padilla, who's the former executive secretary of the Organization of American States. And he has since come- We actually- they, CIES gave him the grant for the second time in a row and David is a wonderful person. We get him for absolutely nothing. He keeps coming back. We pay for his air ticket and we give him accommodation but we give him no honorarium and we don't pay for his meals or anything and he keeps coming back. He's coming back again, he's arriving on- this year, he's currently in La Paz, I got an email from him today. And he and I went up to the gorillas with Brian. He was on a Fulbright grant in Rwanda, which is why I- the timing, I went there.

Q: So, just to make the link visible, this is your previous career totally integrated into the current one.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, very much so. And now this- we have coming also, thanks to the PAS [Public Affairs Section], we made an application for another professor through the senior scholar program, senior specialist program but were- to my utter amazement we were unsuccessful. I couldn't believe it. I didn't think anybody did any work better than we did but when I spoke to the PAO, Mary Dean [Connor], she was very kind, she said she hadn't known about it and then she and the cultural attaché^{1/2} came here and they wanted some stuff from me also and they'd given a grant; they've given him a grant.

Q: Local?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: A local grant to bring him out. So he's arriving on Sunday, the 22nd.

Q: Oh, this is for a brief visit. It's not for-

JACOT GUILLARMOD: He'll be here for two weeks.

Q: Oh, okay, okay.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: That's what the senior specialist program is; it's between two and six weeks, they come for-

Q: Right. Window of opportunity to be with students here in the law school.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, yes.

Q: Great.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: So it's really is- I love it when- I always say I love it when my old life connects with my new. One of the people that- I hadn't been here very long; Donna Rodzinsky was still CAO, and she asked me and we walked with the Department of Business and Economic Sciences to bring out somebody who subsequently became very famous. He was then the secretary, was Robert Zoellick, and you know he's now head of the World Bank.

Q: Oh my. You brought- oh my. USTR (United States Trade Representative) and now World Bank. Wow. Did he come out as USTR? U.S. Trade Representative?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. And they said afterwards, and I think that- I believe the embassy told me afterwards he said that his session here with the students, and we brought in some students from the Mamelodi Campus as well, and he said that it was the highlight of his trip.

Q: Wow.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes. So.

Q: For the record, Robert Zoellick found this the highlight of his trip.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: And he- I also worked with them- Because of my links with Indiana University over the South African internship program and Patrick Amara, who's the head of international affairs, a former South African of many, many years with CIP and that as well, we- I worked with- The law faculty set up- had a- State Department gave a grant to the law faculty and Indiana University and Indiana brought out experts to deliver lectures on legislative drafting and then took a bunch of South African magistrates over- or prosecutors, I think, over for legislative drafting in the States.

Q: Tulane did that also. Tulane had a legislative drafting program that came here.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, did they also?

Q: Yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Ah.

Q: Poor Tulane. But you know that the storm didn't shut down Tulane. They're still at it, yes.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, good, good, wow, because that-

So that's kind of where my connection-

Q: Marvelous. You know, we should keep this open ended; we should consider following up on another day. For today, Gill Jacot Guillarmod, this is your life. And before we shut off the mic, the sense that you've had of your- in the sweeping fate of things that have happened in the last 20 years in this country and you've been right in the middle of it; what does it feel like, what do you think you were able to accomplish and what does it feel like when you look back at what you did during that period?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Oh, just a feeling of such gratitude, really, that I could have been part of, really part of history, that I was able to- and I was so lucky that I just landed in a job where I could help make opportunities and make it possible for people, as I said early on, to realize their own sense, you know, their own worth and that. And then, you know, come from there and to now, with a continuation with the Human Rights because it really is an absolute follow on from what we did at the embassy. And now I've gotten to travel throughout my continent; I'm going to Nigeria in August.

Q: Where you used to be persona non grata and where you're now very grata.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Yes, absolutely.

Q: Well Gill, knowing that we'll add anything to this at any time, I want to thank you for sharing these brief episodes in a remarkable career.

JACOT GUILLARMOD: Lovely; I've enjoyed it. I've enjoyed- I like looking down and then when I- my eye falls upon somebody's name I think oh, yes, and it brings back a memory, you know. There are so many wonderful, wonderful memories. Sadly the more recent ones, I'm afraid, are not that good.

We had, oh, just a lovely little story. Obed Magure was a blind man and we sent him to Boston College where he did a Masters in educational-

Q: Education?

JACOT GUILLARMOD: In education, yes. Well, he came back to South Africa and I really- obviously I was at the airport to meet him and my friend, she then became my friend, Serena, she was my counterpart at the IIE, Institute of International Education, and she was very nice. She met Obed on arrival and put him on the plane to Boston and everything and then when he came back he- I got a phone call from him, he said he wanted to pay me a visit. And he came down; obviously somebody brought him and then we had a lovely session in my office and then he said oh Gill, I've got a few things for you in the car.

So I went out to the car and they opened the boot, you'd say the trunk, and in it was- he comes from- he came, he's now based in Pretoria, he came from the northeast, the northern part and eastern part of the country where things grow very prolifically, and this boot was filled with pineapples and mangos, avocado, pears; and I said oh, Obed, I don't want you spending your money on me. And he said, drawing himself up and looking down his face, he said, we do grow things, you know, Gill. Putting me in my place completely.

Q: A perfect final note; a perfect final note.

End of interview